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OBEY THE LAW

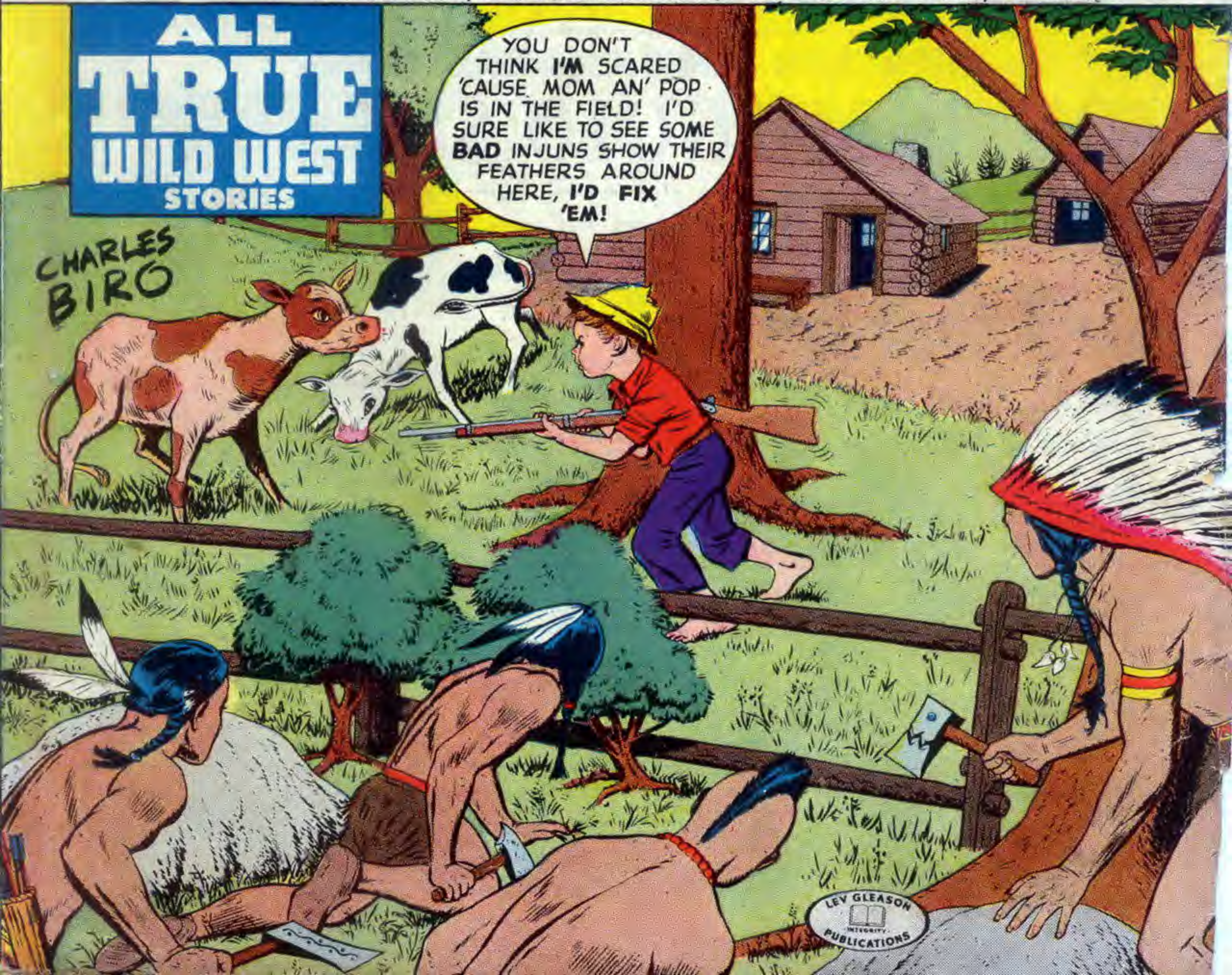
LAW
AND ORDER
IN THE
WILD
WEST

LEV GLEASON, PUBLISHER · CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS

ALL
TRUE
WILD WEST
STORIES

CHARLES
BIRO

YOU DON'T
THINK I'M SCARED
'CAUSE MOM AN' POP
IS IN THE FIELD! I'D
SURE LIKE TO SEE SOME
BAD INJUNS SHOW THEIR
FEATHERS AROUND
HERE, I'D FIX
'EM!



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OBEY THE LAW



JOAQUIN MURRIETA

**NO EVIL DEED WOULD SATISFY
HIS HUNGER FOR DESTRUCTION!**

**ONLY ONE MAN DARED TO
STAND AGAINST HIS TERROR!**



YES, MURRIETA—I WAS BUILT FOR THAT ONE PURPOSE, BUT I NEVER DID GET YOUR SLIMY NECK IN MY GRASP—THOUGH THERE WAS NO NECK IN ALL OF CALIFORNIA I WOULD RATHER HAVE SNAPPED—FOR YOURS WAS A CAREER IN CRIME THAT HAS SELDOM BEEN PARALLELED, AND LEFT BEHIND IT A BLOODY STAIN ON THE HISTORY OF THAT GREAT STATE!

HA, HA, HA!
NOW HERE IS A FINE LOOKING GALLOWS IF I EVER SAW ONE—THE STURDIEST GALLOWS IN ALL OF CALIFORNIA, THEY SAY! AND I HAVE HEARD IT WAS BUILT ESPECIALLY FOR MY NECK—THE CHOICE NECK OF JOAQUIN MURRIETA!
HA, HA, HA!

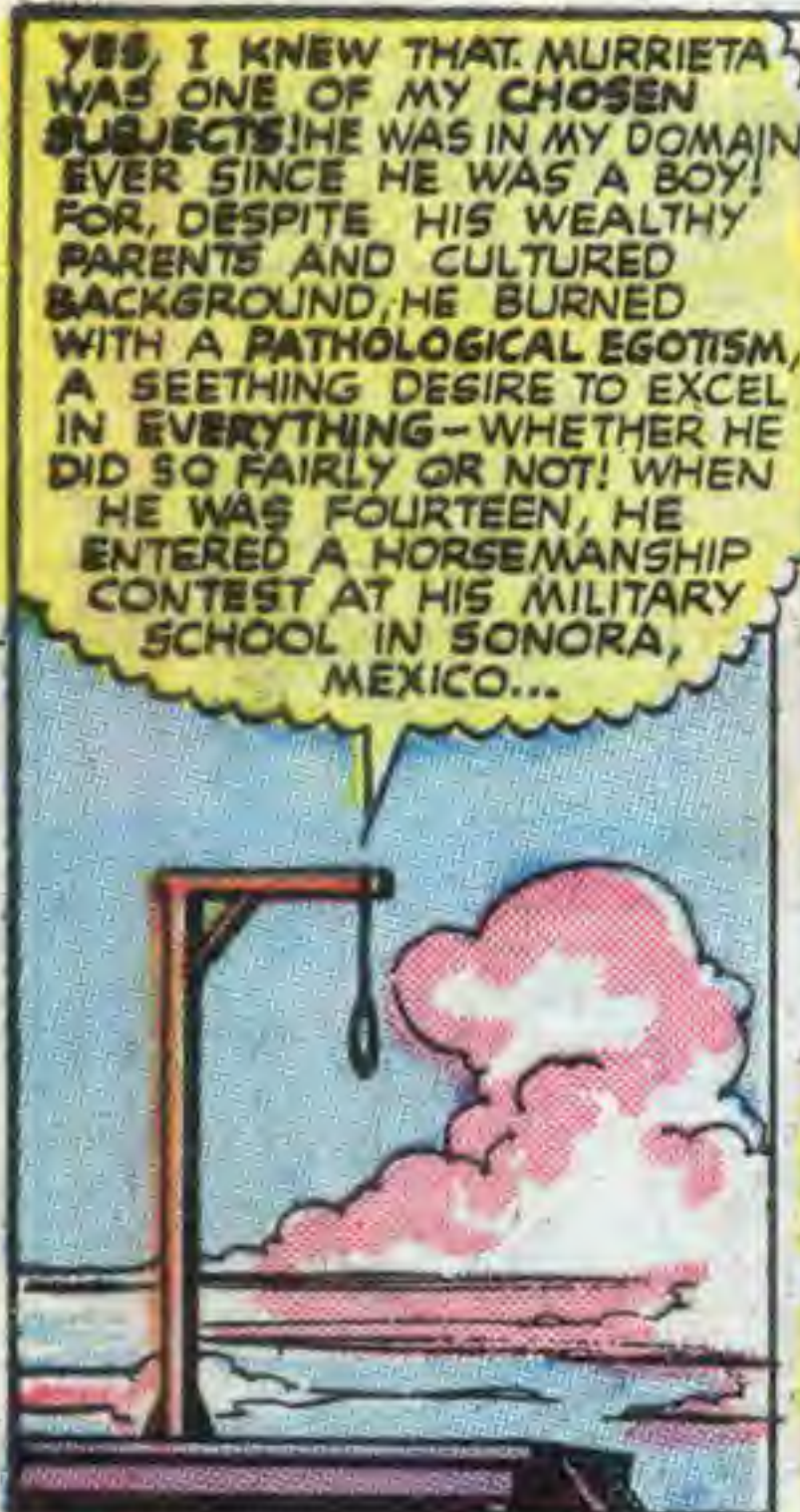
BUT WHY TELL YOU?
YOU'RE DEAD NOW—AND THE ONLY WORTHWHILE MEMORY YOU LEFT IS THE MORAL LESSON THE WORLD CAN LEARN FROM YOUR SINFUL RECORD, AND I GUESS I'M THE ONE WHO CAN TELL THE WORLD, IF ANYONE CAN! LOOK BACK TO MURRIETA'S DAYS ON THE WILD FRONTIER—I WAS THE ONE STAUNCH DEFENDER OF MEN'S RIGHTS, AND THE FEAR I STRUCK IN MEN'S HEARTS WAS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS THAT KEPT THE WEST TOGETHER AND LET IT GROW TO ITS PRESENT GREATNESS! I PROTECTED PEOPLE'S POSSESSIONS FROM HORSE-THIEVES AND CATTLE RUSTLERS! I PROTECTED THEIR LIVES FROM THE LUSTFUL MURDERERS WHO TERRORIZED FRONTIER TOWNS! IN A WAY, I WAS THE ONE SYMBOL OF JUSTICE IN THOSE LAWLESS DAYS! AND I'M PROUD OF WHAT I ACCOMPLISHED—BUT THERE IS ONE BLOT ON MY RECORD—THE MAN I WANTED MOST TO HANG ELUDED MY NOOSE! WHY DID I WANT HIS LIFE SO BADLY? WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY, AND AFTER I'VE TOLD IT, YOU'LL AGREE THAT JOAQUIN MURRIETA WAS BORN FOR THE GALLOWS!

IN CONSIDERATION OF INNOCENT PEOPLE INVOLVED AND RELATIVES OF OTHERS, THE NAMES OF SOME CHARACTERS DEPICTED IN THIS TRUE MAGAZINE ARE FICTITIOUS.
The editors

ADAPTATION
and ART by
DAN
BARRY



OBEY THE LAW



YES, I KNEW THAT MURRIETA WAS ONE OF MY CHOSEN SUBJECTS! HE WAS IN MY DOMAIN EVER SINCE HE WAS A BOY! FOR, DESPITE HIS WEALTHY PARENTS AND CULTURED BACKGROUND, HE BURNED WITH A PATHOLOGICAL EGOTISM, A SEETHING DESIRE TO EXCEL IN EVERYTHING—WHETHER HE DID SO FAIRLY OR NOT! WHEN HE WAS FOURTEEN, HE ENTERED A HORSEMANSHIP CONTEST AT HIS MILITARY SCHOOL IN SONORA, MEXICO...



HE WAS A PRETTY GOOD RIDER, BUT ONE BOY WAS AHEAD OF HIM AS THEY CAME TO THE LAST HURDLE!

DEVIL! I'LL SHOW HIM WHO IS THE GREATER HORSEMAN—IF I HAVE TO BREAK HIS NECK ON THIS JUMP!

JOAQUIN! LOOK OUT! YOU'RE CROWDING ME! WE'LL BE HURT!



I RECOGNIZED THE THREAT OF MURDER IN JOAQUIN'S EYE, AS HE TRIED TO UNSEAT HIS OPPONENT—BUT THE BOY WAS A SUPERIOR RIDER, AND JOAQUIN WOUND UP IN A SPILL HIMSELF!

I TOLD YOU TO BE CAREFUL, YOU FOOL!

GXX!! YOU FILTHY SWINE! YOU TRICKED ME! OHHH..



AH, BUENO, RAMON—YOU HAVE WON FIRST PRIZE! WE ARE PROUD TO AWARD YOU THIS TROPHY IN RECOGNITION OF...

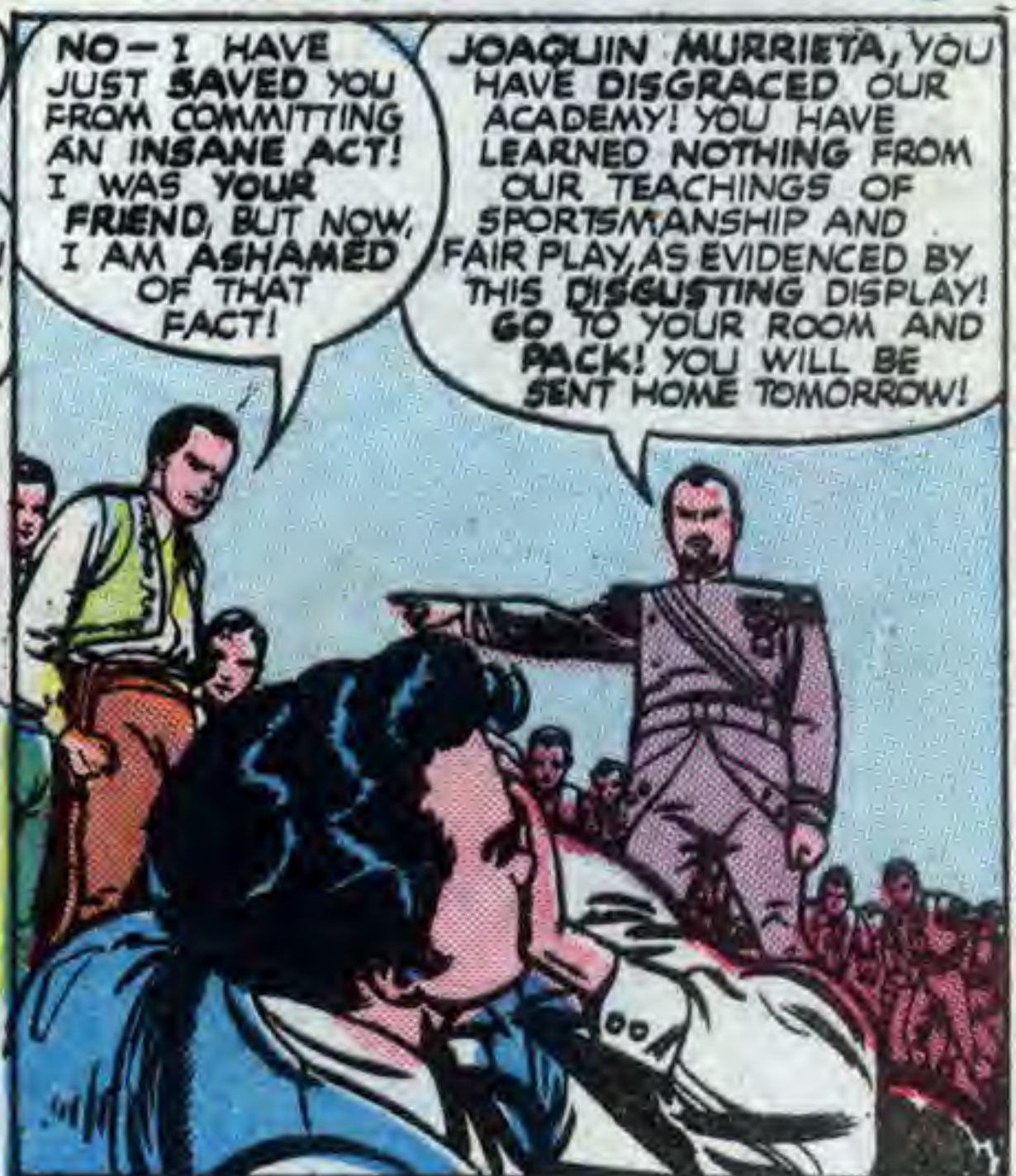
PIG! HE UPSET MY HORSE! HE DID IT DELIBERATELY! I'LL CUT HIS HEART OUT!

JOAQUIN! STOP, YOU FOOL!



JOAQUIN, YOU FOOL! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? DROP THAT KNIFE!

JUAN! YOU TURN AGAINST ME? UGH..



NO—I HAVE JUST SAVED YOU FROM COMMITTING AN INSANE ACT! I WAS YOUR FRIEND, BUT NOW, I AM ASHAMED OF THAT FACT!

JOAQUIN MURRIETA, YOU HAVE DISGRACED OUR ACADEMY! YOU HAVE LEARNED NOTHING FROM OUR TEACHINGS OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY, AS EVIDENCED BY THIS DISGUSTING DISPLAY! GO TO YOUR ROOM AND PACK! YOU WILL BE SENT HOME TOMORROW!



...BUT THAT NIGHT... THE DOGS! THEY WILL NOT SEND JOAQUIN MURRIETA HOME IN DISGRACE LIKE A STUPID CHILD! I WILL GO TO CALIFORNIA AND JOIN MY BROTHER, CARLOS, AT HIS GOLD MINE—AND WHEN I AM RICH AND POWERFUL, THEY WILL RUE THE DAY WHEN THEY TREATED ME WITH DISRESPECT! ADIOS, MEXICO—WHEN I RETURN, YOU WILL KISS MY KNEES, AND KNEEL IN THE DUST OF MY FOOTSTEPS!



THIS WAS YOUNG JOAQUIN AT FOURTEEN—A FRUSTRATED EGO-MANIAC, WHO WOULD KILL AT THE DROP OF A HAT! I KNEW THEN, THAT HE WOULD SOME DAY HAVE EARNED A TRIP TO MY SCAFFOLD! HIS TYPE OF AMBITION CARRIED HATE AND BITTERNESS WITH IT—AND DESTROYED ANYONE WHO STOOD IN HIS WAY!

WELL, HE DID GET TO CALIFORNIA, BUT HIS BROTHER, CARLOS, WASN'T EASY TO FIND! JOAQUIN GOT IN AND OUT OF MANY TROUBLES IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS—AND AT THE RIPE OLD AGE OF SIXTEEN, HE SHOWED UP IN SAN FRANCISCO, WITH A PRETTY YOUNG BRIDE AND A HANDSOME MUSTACHE!



COME, CARMEN, MI QUERIDA, LET US STOP HERE FOR AWHILE! PERHAPS WE WILL HEAR SOME GOSSIP OF MY BROTHER, CARLOS' WHEREABOUTS!

OH, JOAQUIN—I DO NOT LIKE THESE PLACES OF EVIL—THESE BARS AND SALOONS! FOR MONTHS NOW WE HAVE BEEN SPENDING OUR TIME HERE, WHEN WE COULD BE WORKING TO EARN AN HONEST LIVING! WHEN WILL ALL THIS STOP?

OBEY THE LAW



WAIT! MADRE DEL DIABLO—LOOK—OVER THERE!



OBEY THE LAW

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN JOAQUIN INTO? HE DID THIS FOR ME!

ALL RIGHT—YOU HAVE US! YOU CAN HANG ME! I STOLE THE HORSES! MY BROTHER HAS HIS OWN, AND HIS WIFE—SHE KNEW NOTHING OF ALL THIS!

SHUT UP, MISTER! WE'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU—AN' I'M FER HANGIN' THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU!

HOLD ON—JUST A MINUTE—I'M THE SHERIFF!

HE'S RIGHT—HIS BROTHER DIDN'T STEAL A HORSE—BUT HE WAS IN ON IT—WE CAN GIVE HIM A FLOGGIN' HE WON'T FORGET!

YEAH—LET'S TAKE 'EM OUT TO TWIN OAKS! WE'LL SHOW 'EM HOW WE DEAL WITH HORSE THIEVES! GET A GOOD, STRONG ROPE, CARSON—THE TRIAL'S OVER!

I GOT ONE! LET'S GO!

IT WAS A PRETTY GRIM PARTY THAT RODE OUT TO TWIN OAKS, BUT JOAQUIN NEVER FLINCHED, AS HE LET HIS BROTHER HANG TO SAVE HIS NECK! IN AN INDIRECT WAY, YOU MIGHT SAY THIS WAS HIS FIRST MURDER—HIS OWN BROTHER! BUT JOAQUIN COULD NEVER SEE IT THAT WAY—ALL HE COULD THINK OF WAS HIS OWN NECK, AND THE BITTER SHAME OF BEING CAPTURED LIKE A TRAPPED ANIMAL!

OKAY, JENKINS—THE NOOSE IS GOOD AN' TIGHT! SPUR THE HORSE OFF!

GIVE THAT OTHER ONE TWENTY LASHES!

NO! NO! PLEASE! HAVE MERCY! HE'S ONLY A BOY! JOAQUIN! JOAQUIN! OHH..

OUTTA MY WAY, LADY—I GOT BUSINESS!

THAT'S TWENTY—UGH! THIS HOMBRE MUST BE HALF DEAD! I RECKON HE'LL NEVER MESS WITH HORSE-THIEVIN' AGAIN! LET'S GO!

OH, JOAQUIN! JOAQUIN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? OH, WHY DID I LET YOU DO IT? I KNEW STEALING WOULD LEAD TO NO GOOD, AND NOW CARLOS IS DEAD—AND ALL BECAUSE OF US, JOAQUIN! WHEN WILL YOU GIVE UP YOUR SCHEMES AND BE CONTENT TO LIVE IN PEACE? HE DOESN'T HEAR ME—HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! I WILL MAKE HIM WELL!

THERE—THAT IS BETTER! NOW LIE STILL AND SAVE YOUR STRENGTH! WHEN YOU ARE BETTER, WE WILL RETURN TO MEXICO, EH, JOAQUIN?

MEXICO? RETURN BROKEN AND STARVING, AND LEAVE CARLOS' DEATH UNAVENGED? NEVER! I WILL FIND CARLOS' CLAIM, AND I WILL BE RICH! THEN I WILL MAKE THESE CALIFORNIANS PAY FOR THIS A THOUSAND TIMES OVER! A THOUSAND LIVES FOR THAT OF CARLOS!

BUT IT WAS NOT THEIR FAULT! IT IS THE LAW HERE, AND WE BROKE IT! CARLOS PAID FOR OUR SINS, JOAQUIN! DON'T GET UP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

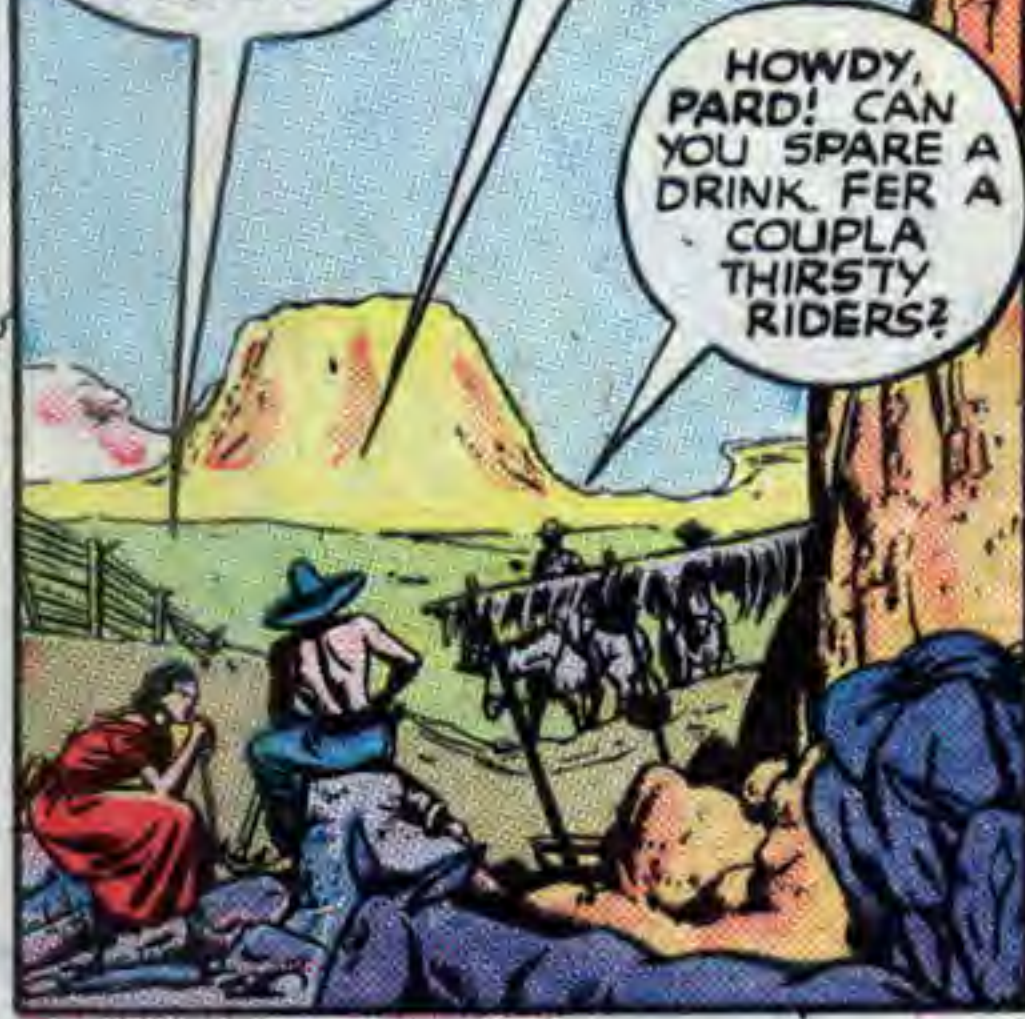
AHA—HERE IT IS—THE MAP OF CARLOS' GOLD CLAIM! THAT IS WHERE WE ARE GOING—HA, HA, WE WILL YET TAKE OUR FORTUNE FROM CALIFORNIA!

OBEDY THE LAW

THAT WAS JOAQUIN AT SIXTEEN—HORSETHIEF, BETRAYER OF HIS BROTHER—A MAN WHO BROUGHT THE CURSE OF DEATH TO THOSE WHO JOINED HIM—AND FOR HIS SINFULNESS HE BLAMED THE WORLD AROUND HIM! A PARANOIAC'S GOAL IS TO CONQUER AND DESTROY—IT'S HIS ONLY MOMENTARY ESCAPE FROM HIS OWN HATEFUL SELF! JOAQUIN NOW SET OUT TO CONQUER THE RICHES FROM THE BREAST OF THE EARTH! A LONE PROSPECTOR FELL VICTIM TO HIS KNIFE, AND JOAQUIN NOW HAD BURROS AND TOOLS TO MINE WITH—BUT AFTER FIVE MONTHS OF TOIL AND SWEAT...



YOU HAVE WORKED THIS CLAIM HARD, JOAQUIN, AND THOUGH WE HAVE FOUND BUT A FEW NUGGETS, I AM PROUD THAT YOU ARE WORKING HONESTLY FOR IT!



BAH! HONESTLY! WHAT DIFFERENCE HOW I AM WORKING? I AM ONLY MAKING A PEON'S PURSE FOR IT! WAIT—THOSE MEN COMING—WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HOWDY, PARD! CAN YOU SPARE A DRINK FER A COUPLA THIRSTY RIDERS?

CARAMBA! THEY ARE PROBABLY THIEVES TRYING TO STEAL OUR GOLD NUGGETS! I WILL TEACH THEM! DRINK THIS, YOU LADRONES!

LOOK OUT, HANK! UGH...

WHY, YA LOW-DOWN FILTHY COYOTE!



OF ALL THE SNEAKIN' CRAWLIN' RATTLERS!

OHH... JOAQUIN! I AM HIT! OHH...

BANG! BANG!



CARMEN! CARMEN! DOG, PIG—YOU'VE KILLED HER! YOU'VE KILLED HER!

AAGH...

BANG!

LISTEN TO ME, CARMEN! I KILLED THE FILTHY SWINE! CARMEN—YOU HEAR ME? I DID NOT LET THE BANDIT GET AWAY! I DID IT FOR YOU—QUERIDA MIA! YOU MUST GET WELL, PLEASE! YOU CANNOT LEAVE ME! I NEED YOU, CARMEN! CARMEN—IF YOU DIE, A THOUSAND HEADS WILL FALL TO PAY FOR THIS!

NO, JOAQUIN! THIS WAS NOT THE WORK OF THOSE MEN! IT WAS YOUR DOING! YOU... KILLED ME, JOAQUIN! THOSE MEN MEANT NO HARM! BY YOUR EVIL CRAZE... FOR KILLING... GASP! YOU HAVE DONE THIS! YOU DESTROYED CARLOS—NOW ME... AND ONE DAY, YOU WILL DESTROY YOURSELF! YOU ARE BAD, JOAQUIN, BAD... UGH...



WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN', YOU FOOL! I LOVED YOU, CARMEN! COME BACK TO ME—COME BACK! HIJOS DEL DIABLO—THEY HAVE KILLED HER! THEY HAVE TAKEN HER FROM ME! I SWEAR BY THE LAST DROP OF BLOOD IN MY VEINS, THEY WILL PAY FOR HURTING JOAQUIN MURRIETA! SO! A CURSE ON THEM ALL! THEY WILL PAY IN BLOOD—AND IN GOLD! I SHALL TAKE BOTH AS I LIKE—AND ALL THE WORLD SHALL NOT STOP ME! DO YOU HEAR ME, CARMEN? NOTHING WILL STOP ME!



AND SO, JOAQUIN, BY VIRTUE OF HIS OWN CRUEL DEEDS, WAS FURTHER SPURRED ON TO A CAREER OF CRIME AND MURDER, UNDER THE FALSE PRETENSE OF VENGEANCE—A VENGEANCE THAT GAVE VENT TO HIS LUST FOR DESTRUCTION AND CONQUEST! THE TERROR OF HIS NAME SOON SPREAD THROUGH ALL OF CALIFORNIA!

JOAQUIN MURRIETA!

JOAQUIN MURRIETA!

JOAQUIN MURRIETA

JOAQUIN MURRIETA

JOAQUIN MURRIETA

OBEY THE LAW

IN JUST A FEW MONTHS, JOAQUIN'S NOTORIETY HAD REACHED MANY MEN OF CRIME, WHO CAME TO JOIN FORCES WITH HIM—THIS WAS WHAT HE HAD DREAMED OF! POWER WAS IN HIS HANDS, AND HE USED IT AS UNSCRUPULOUSLY AS A CRAZED TIGER, KILLING AND LOOTING ALL THAT LAY IN HIS PATH! WHEN HE WAS SATISFIED THAT HE WAS A MAN OF REKNOWN, HE RETURNED TO HIS NATIVE SONORA MEXICO, WITH A PART OF HIS BAND OF CUTTHROATS!

LOOK—IT IS JOAQUIN! HE HAS COME BACK, THE BLACK DEVIL! HE IS A BLOT ON THE NAME OF OUR PEOPLE!

AYE, BUT HE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO HAVE HIS WILL CARRIED OUT! I PITY THOSE WHO WERE HIS ENEMIES WHEN HE LEFT!

SI! AND I THINK HE IS HEADING FOR THE MILITARY ACADEMY RIGHT NOW, ON THAT SCORE!

JOAQUIN! I HEARD YOU WERE BACK! WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE AT THE ACADEMY?

AHA! RAMON CARDOZA—THE EXPERT HORSEMAN—NOW A FULL-GROWN OFFICER, EH? AHA, HA—I COME FOR YOU, BUT OF COURSE, MY FRIEND—COME! WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE HORSE RACE! SEVALIO, BRING HIM ALONG!

YOU HEARD HIM, PIG—COME!

AHA—THERE YOU ARE NOW! YOU LOOK VERY PRETTY ON THAT FINE HORSE! NOW RIDE! THIS TIME YOU WILL BE RACING BULLETS! HA, HA, HA!

HAVE YOU GONE MAD? WHAT HAVE I EVER DONE TO YOU? THIS IS MURDER!

MAKE HIM RIDE! WHIP THE DONKEY!

THERE HE GOES—MY, WHAT A FINE HORSEMAN! ALL RIGHT, AMIGOS—SEE IF YOUR GUNS CAN CATCH HIM?

AAGH... YOU...! BGG!X

THAT WAS ONE FINE RACE! NOW, SEVALIO—TELL THE MEN TO TAKE OVER THE ACADEMY! FROM NOW ON, IT BELONGS TO JOAQUIN! THIS WILL BE OUR RESTING PLACE! WE STAY FOR TWO WEEKS—NOW, MAKE MERRY!

SI, JOAQUIN! WE WILL, AND THEN BACK TO CALIFORNIA FOR SOME MORE OF ITS FANCY RICHES, EH?

AND SO, JOAQUIN HAD HIS NATIVE SONORA IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND! WHEN HE RETURNED TO CALIFORNIA, HE TOOK A PRIZE GEM WITH HIM—HIS SECOND WIFE, ROSITA—MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN CARMEN WAS, AND MORE SUITED TO JOAQUIN!

OH, JOAQUIN—IT IS SO EXCITING TO BE WITH YOU IN CALIFORNIA! I CANNOT WAIT TO SEE HOW YOU CARRY OUT YOUR DARING EXPLOITS!

AHA, MY SWEET! YOU WILL SEE—FOR YOU I WILL DESTROY EVERY DOG THAT CROSSES MY FOOTSTEPS, AND LAY THEIR HEADS AT YOUR FEET!

COME, ROSITA—I WILL LET YOU ENJOY SOME OF JOAQUIN'S PROWESS! YOU SEE THIS SALOON? WE WILL STOP HERE A MOMENT AND ANNOUNCE MY RETURN TO CALIFORNIA!

SILENCIO! JOAQUIN MURRIETA HAS RETURNED! IS THERE ANYONE HERE WHO DARES REACH FOR HIS GUNS?

MURRIETA! WHAT A NERVE! YOU JUST WALKED INTO YER GRAVEYARD, PARDNER! DRAW, MEN—HE AIN'T GOT A CHANCE!

OBEDY THE LAW



WHY WASTE TIME DRAWING YOUR GUNS, STUPID MULES, WHEN IT CAN BE DONE LIKE THIS! DON'T HELP, ROSITA! I WANT TO DO IT BY MYSELF!

I DON'T HAVE TO! YOU ARE CLEVER, JOAQUIN! THEY ARE DEAD BEFORE THEY DRAW!

HA, ROSITA! THEY DON'T EVEN DARE FOLLOW US! JOAQUIN IS ONE PRETTY GOOD BANDIT, EH? HA, BUT WAIT—YOU HAVE SEEN NOTHING YET! WE WILL MEET MY LIEUTENANTS TODAY—AND THEN YOU WILL SEE THE REST OF MY ARMY! AHA, THERE IS SOMETHING TO SEE, MI QUERIDA!

OH, JOAQUIN—I CANNOT WAIT TO SEE ALL THE STRONG DESPERADOES WHO SERVE YOU!



JOAQUIN BROUGHT ANOTHER BE-DEVILLED SOUL ALONG WITH HIM ON THE PATH OF HATE AND GREED THAT LED HIM CLOSER TO MY SCAFFOLD EACH PASSING DAY, AND THAT AFTER-NOON, ROSITA SAW THE GREAT ARMY OF JOAQUIN'S BANDS THAT ASSEMBLED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE TO MAKE NEW PLANS! JOAQUIN HAD SIX LIEUTENANTS, EACH COMMANDING A BAND OF MORE THAN A HUNDRED MEN!

AHA, ROSITA—HERE ARE MY TRUSTED LIEUTENANTS! MEN—INTRODUCE YOURSELVES TO MY WIFE, ROSITA, THE FLOWER OF ALL MEXICO! OFF WITH YOUR HATS!

YES, SIR—JIM, THE MOUNTAIN, SENORA—AT YOUR SERVICE!

RINALDO FELIX—AN HONOR, SENORA!

VALENZUELA!

JIM THREE-FINGERS!

JUAN CORTEZ!

AN' YOU KNOW ME—I AM SEVALIO! JOAQUIN'S PERSONAL EXECUTIONER!

JOAQUIN! WE HAVE HAD GREAT SUCCESS IN SACRAMENTO! WE HAVE MANY RIFLES, HORSES AN' JEWELS TO ADD TO OUR BOOTY, BUT THERE IS BAD NEWS, TOO! THE STATE HAS ISSUED A REWARD FOR YOUR CAPTURE! AT THIS VERY MINUTE, A DOZEN MARSHALS ARE SEEKIN' YOUR NECK!

HA, HA, HA—YOU CALL THAT BAD NEWS, MOUNTAIN? THAT'S GOOD! IT SHOWS THAT JOAQUIN IS FEARED! IF THE MARSHALS DO FIND ME—WAIT!

JOAQUIN—I SAW A POSSE COMING THIS WAY—THERE IS AN ARMY OFFICER WITH THEM!

AHA! SO THEY HAVE FOUND ME ALREADY, EH? OH, SEVALIO, WE HAVE SOME WORK CUT OUT!



JOAQUIN AND SEVALIO DID THEIR WORK NEATLY! THEY HID IN AMBUSH AND CAUGHT THE LAW OFFICER AND HIS BAND IN A DEADLY TRAP!

SO YOU COME TO FIND JOAQUIN, EH? WELL, HERE'S YOUR REWARD, MY BRAVE HEROES!

IT IS TOO BAD THERE IS NO REWARD FOR DEAD MARSHALS, EH, JOAQUIN?



THE STATE SENT MORE MEN! THERE WAS CAPTAIN WILSON OF THE STATE MILITIA, GENERAL BEAN, A HERO OF THE MEXICAN WAR, AND OTHERS—ALL CAUGHT HELPLESSLY IN AMBUSH! BY NOW, THE STATE WAS COMPLETELY AROUSED! THEN CAPTAIN HARRY LOVE ORGANIZED A GROUP CALLED THE "MOUNTED RANGERS"!

ALL RIGHT, MEN, YOU KNOW OUR ONE PURPOSE—THE STATE HAS VOTED US FUNDS TO BRING BACK MURRIETA'S HEAD—IF IT TAKES A THOUSAND MEN TO DO IT! WE'RE ONLY FIFTY, BUT IT'S A START, AND WE'RE GOING TO DO IT!

THE SOONER, THE BETTER!

WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE!

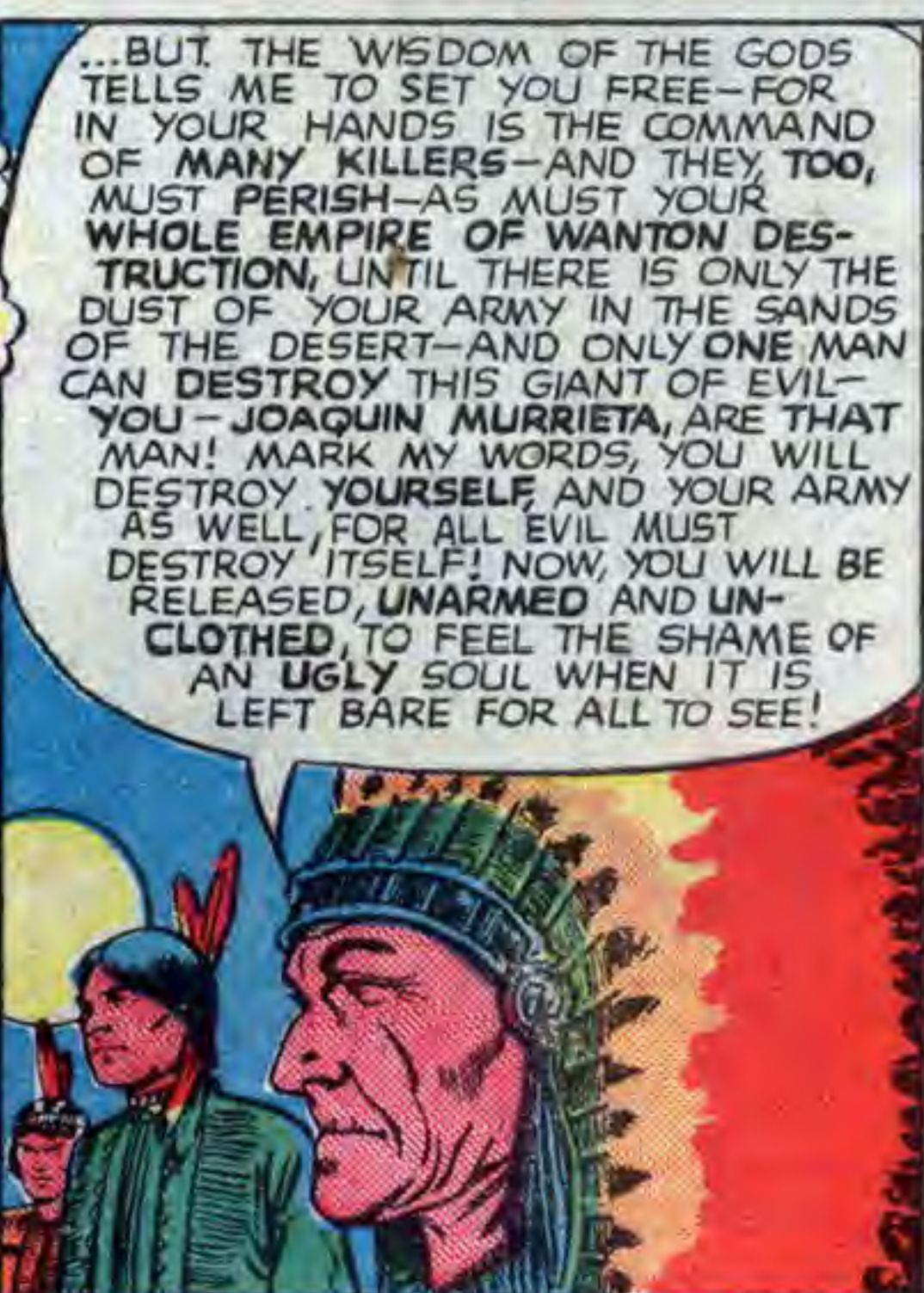
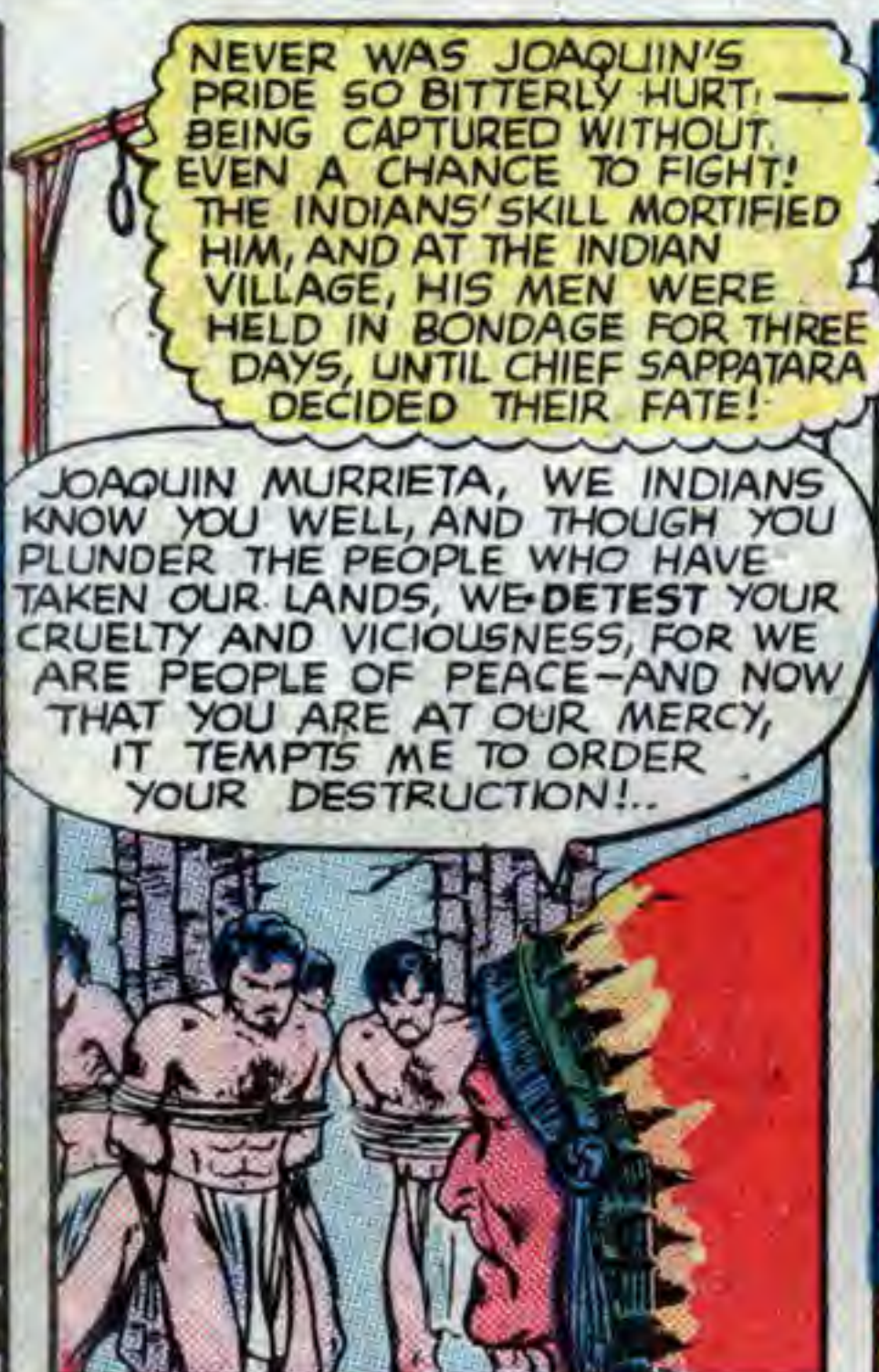


CAPTAIN LOVE'S FORCES WERE HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED IN THEIR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH A BAND OF MURRIETA'S VERMIN!

ORDER THE MEN TO RETREAT! WE STILL HAVE SOME MEN LEFT! WE'LL COME BACK AGAIN—WITH AN ARMY, IF NECESSARY!



OBEY THE LAW



OBEDY THE LAW



OBEY THE LAW



H...HE SAVED YOUR LIFE? BUT I THOUGHT... OHHH...

YES, I KNOW HOW YOUR CRAZED MIND HAS BEEN WORKING! FEAR IS EATING AT YOUR SOUL, AND YOU ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL THE NOOSE! YOU ARE AFRAID, JOAQUIN, AND IT IS DESTROYING YOU! HA! YOU ARE NOT THE ROMANTIC MAN I MARRIED!



SILENCE, YOU WRETCH! ARE YOU TURNING AGAINST ME, TOO? I'LL...

SAVE YOUR THREATS! HERE COMES THE RIDER YOU SENT TO FIND JIM MOUNTAIN!

OH, SENOR JOAQUIN... PUFF! I HAVE BEEN RIDING LIKE...THE WIND! WHAT TRAGEDY! I NEVER PUFF! REACHED JIM MOUNTAIN!...I MET ONE OF HIS MEN ONLY TWENTY MILES BACK...HE WAS WOUNDED! HE TOLD ME... PUFF! PART OF CAPTAIN LOVE'S ARMY MET...PUFF! MOUNTAIN'S FORCE...AND WIPED THEM OUT! AND NOW...CAPTAIN LOVE AND MORE MEN...THEY ARE RIGHT BEHIND US! THERE ARE MANY OF THEM... FRESH TROOPS!

SACRE! THEY WILL OVERTAKE US! WE MUST SPLIT UP, ROSITA! TAKE THE MEN IN THE REAR, AND ALL THE WOMEN! RETREAT TO SAN FRANCISCO! I WILL TAKE MY CHOICE MEN AND GO ON TO MEXICO TO FIND MORE RECRUITS! HURRY—THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME!

SI, JOAQUIN! I WOULD RATHER RIDE WITH WOMEN THAN WITH A JELLYFISH!



JOAQUIN WAS IN COMPLETE PANIC NOW! HE HAD NEVER BEFORE KNOWN THE TREMORS OF FEAR THAT NOW SOUNDED IN HIS HEART AND GNAWED AT HIS CRUMBLING MIND! HE WAS NO LONGER THE CONQUERING MASTER WITH A POWERFUL ARMY TO BACK HIM UP! WHAT WAS LEFT WERE TWO FRIGHTENED UNITS FLEEING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS, ONE WITH ROSITA IN CHARGE!

LEAVE THE MULES BEHIND, AMIGOS! WE MUST MAKE SPEED, OR THE RANGERS WILL BE UPON US!



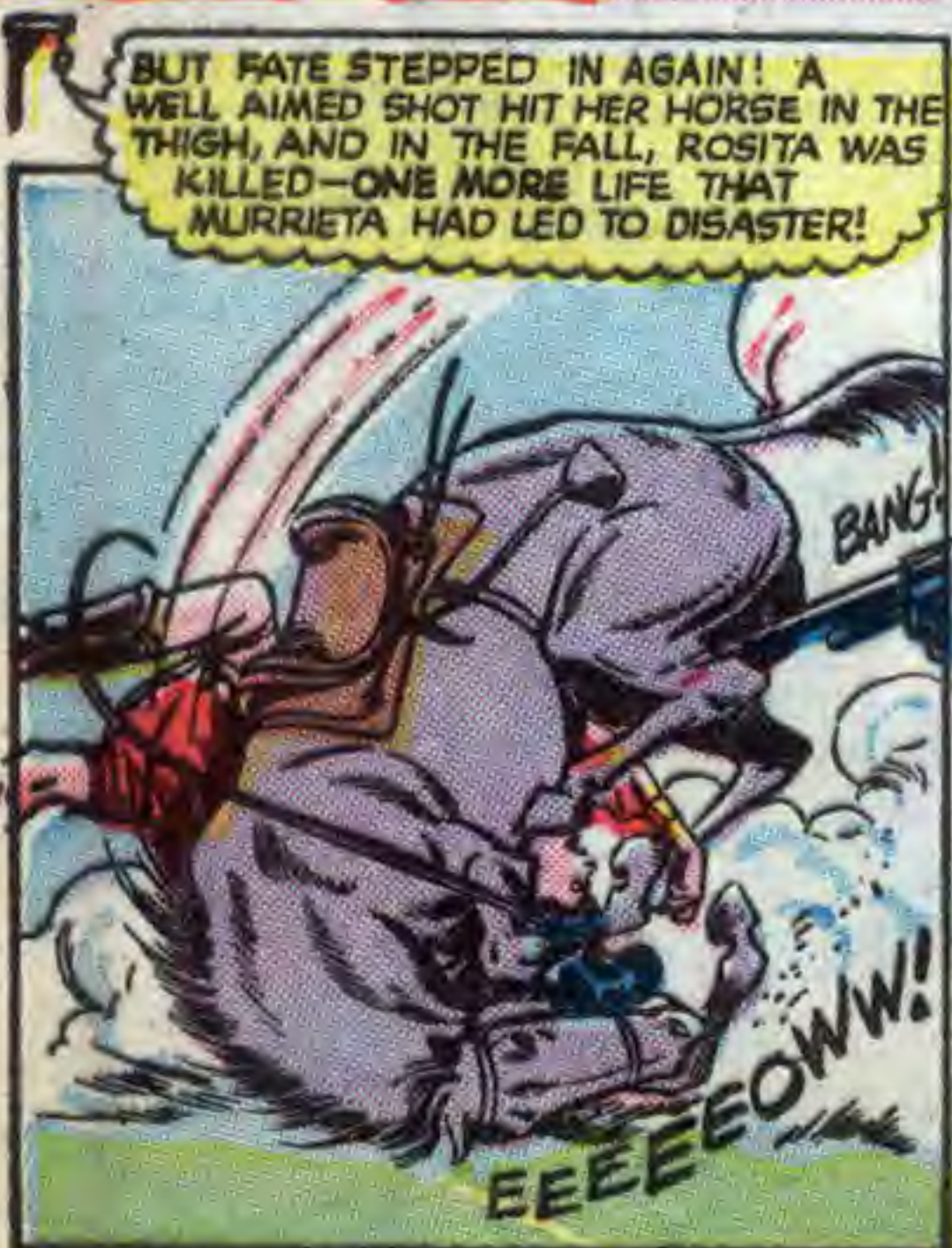
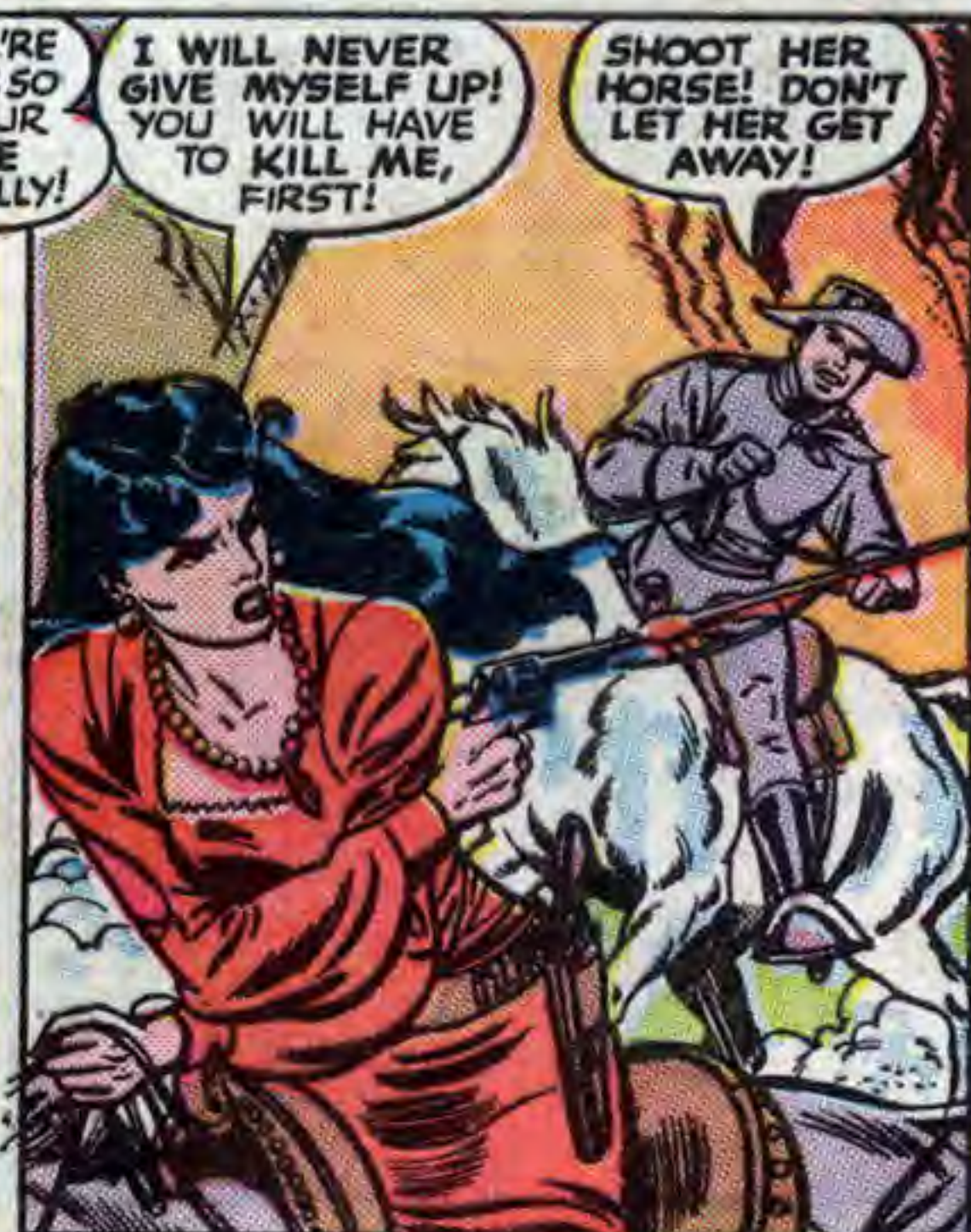
...BUT SUDDENLY...

THE RANGERS! WE ARE SURROUNDED! WE HAVE NO CHANCE TO ESCAPE, ROSITA!

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE IN A DEATH TRAP, SO THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS AND COME ALONG PEACEFULLY!

I WILL NEVER GIVE MYSELF UP! YOU WILL HAVE TO KILL ME, FIRST!

SHOOT HER HORSE! DON'T LET HER GET AWAY!



BUT FATE STEPPED IN AGAIN! A WELL AIMED SHOT HIT HER HORSE IN THE THIGH, AND IN THE FALL, ROSITA WAS KILLED—ONE MORE LIFE THAT MURRIETA HAD LED TO DISASTER!



AT THAT MOMENT, MURRIETA WAS TOO CONCERNED WITH HIS OWN NECK, WHICH WAS BEING DRAWN CLOSER AND CLOSER TO MY GRASP, TO BE THINKING OF ROSITA'S SAFETY!

FASTER, FASTER, MEN! ONCE WE LEAVE THIS PASS, WE WILL BE OUT ON THE OPEN PLAINS WHERE WE CAN SPLIT UP AGAIN AND MAKE EVEN GREATER HASTE!



BUT CAPTAIN LOVE'S STRATEGY WAS WELL CALCULATED! WHILE ONE COMPANY OF RANGERS FOLLOWED MURRIETA THROUGH THE RAVINE, HE LED A SPEARHEAD GROUP AROUND THE RANGE AND CUT HIM OFF AT THE END OF THE ONLY PASS THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS!

HALT, MURRIETA! WE'VE GOT YOU CORNERED! YOU'RE GOING TO SURRENDER, OR DIE WHERE YOU ARE!

SURRENDER AND HANG? NEVER! WE WILL BREAK THROUGH! FIRE!

OBEDY THE LAW

MURRIETA'S CUTTHROATS WERE ACCUSTOMED ONLY TO SNEAK ATTACKS FROM AMBUSH, AND THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR THE WELL TRAINED RANGERS IN A FAIR, HEAD-ON CLASH!

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SURRENDER, MURRIETA! I'M PROMISING YOU A FAIR TRIAL!

WE ARE LOST, JOAQUIN! EVEN SEVALIO IS DONE FOR!

SHEEP LIKE YOU WILL NOT STOP A LION! NO ONE CAN CONQUER JOAQUIN MURRIETA!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, JOAQUIN? DON'T YOU WANT TO STICK BY YOUR BEATEN MEN? THAT'S IT—KEEP CLIMBING! I CAN CLIMB ANYWHERE YOU CAN—SO, AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY, YOU AND I CAN FIGHT IT OUT!

ALL RIGHT, LOVE—I'VE THROWN MY GUN AWAY! COME OUT AN' FIGHT!

SO YOU THREW YOUR GUN AWAY! HA, HA, HA!

YOU MUST BE PRETTY NERVOUS, MURRIETA! I HEARD TELL THAT YOU USED TO BE A PRETTY GOOD SHOT!

OWWWW 66!!!!

NOW I WILL FINISH THIS JOB WITH MY HANDS!

YOU'VE COME TO THE END OF YOUR TRAIL, MURRIETA!

THERE'LL BE A THOUSAND PEOPLE CHEERING AT YOUR HANGING...

...WHEN I LEAD YOU UP TO THE GALLOWS, MURRIETA!

STOP! STOP! ENOUGH! I'LL COME PEACEFULLY! UGH..

OKAY, BUT IF YOU TRY ANY FUNNY STUFF, I'LL DO THE JOB RIGHT HERE!

HEY, YA SNEAKIN' RAT! PUT DOWN THAT ROCK!

NO! NO! I DON'T WANT TO DIE! YOU'LL NEVER PUT ME ON THE GALLOWS!

OOOPFF!!

HEY, SERGEANT MULROY—BRING UP A COUPLE OF MEN WITH GLOVES TO CARRY THIS FILTHY RATTLESNAKE DOWN!

OOOHH... THERE IS NO ESCAPING! THEY WILL HANG ME AS THEY DID CARLOS! NO, NO, NO—IT CANNOT BE! THE SHAME OF IT—PEOPLE STARING AT ME...WAITING FOR THE ROPE TO SNAP MY NECK—NO! NEVER!

NEVER, NEVER! THEY WILL NEVER HANG JOAQUIN MURRIETA!

WHY, YOU CRINGING COYOTE! YOU DID GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT! WELL, THERE GOES THE ONE NECK I'D MOST LIKE TO HAVE SEEN INSIDE A NICE, STRONG NOOSE!

SO WOULD I, CAPTAIN LOVE, BUT IT WAS NO FAULT OF YOURS THAT I DIDN'T GET HIM, LIKE I SAID AT FIRST! IN A WAY, I REPRESENT JUSTICE, BUT A BLACKGUARD LIKE JOAQUIN NEVER LOOKS A MAN STRAIGHT IN THE EYE, MUCH LESS THE ONE THING HE DREADS MOST OF ALL!

WELL, MAYBE I SHOULDN'T FEEL TOO BADLY AFTER ALL! AS WISE OLD CHIEF SAPPATARA POINTED OUT, MEN LIKE MURRIETA ARE MADE OF EVIL THAT DESTROYS THEMSELVES! I GUESS HE DIDN'T EVEN DESERVE TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF JUSTICE! THERE WAS ONLY ONE SHAMEFUL DEATH CHEAP ENOUGH TO FIT HIM—HE WAS HIS OWN EXECUTIONER!

JOAQUIN MURRIETA 1852-1888

THE END

OBEY THE LAW

SURE AS SHOOTIN'

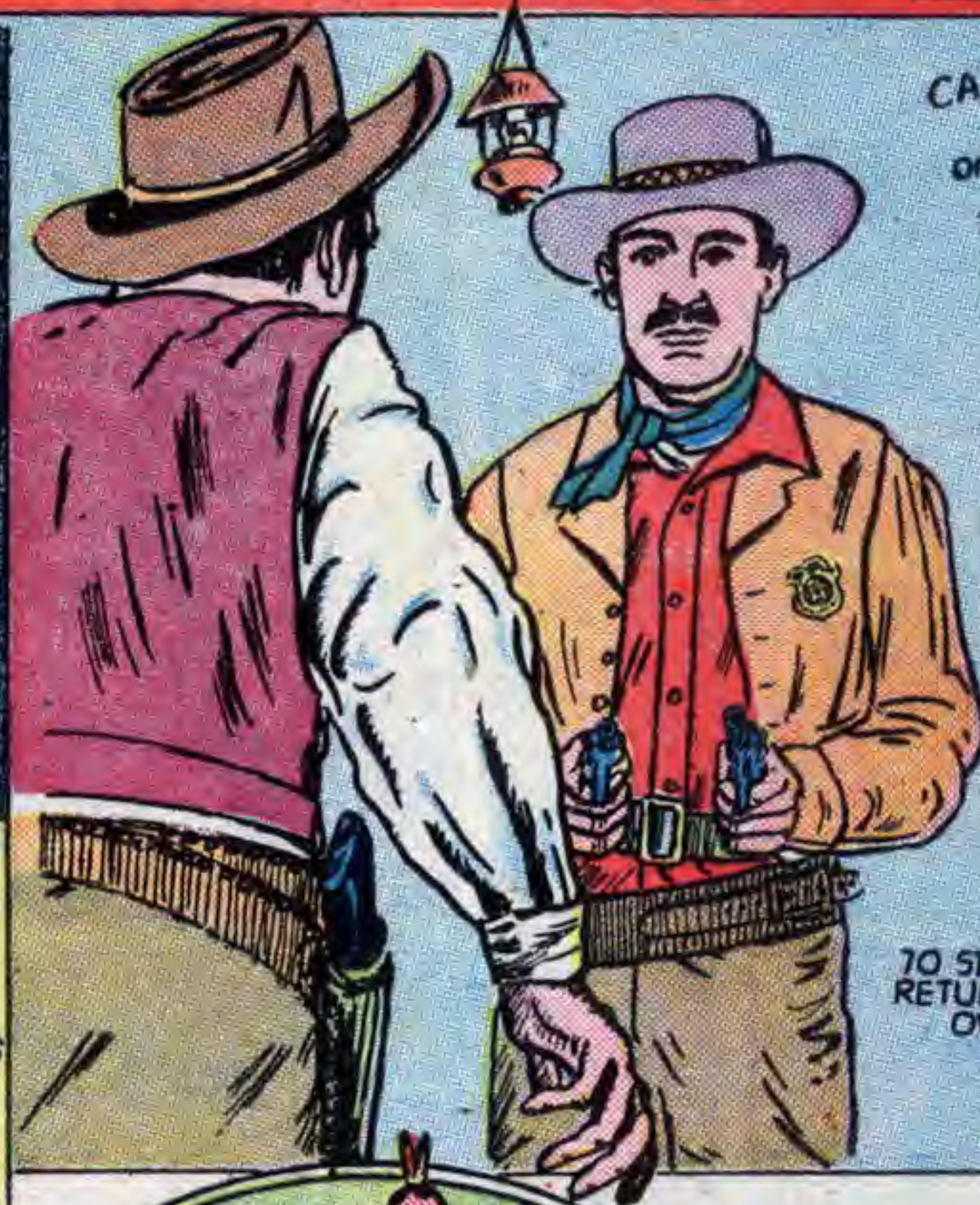
by
CLAUDE MOORE



CHARLES BOLES

A LOVABLE OLD PROSPECTOR OF THE WEST - WAS IN REALITY THE NOTORIOUS "LONE BANDIT," **BLACK BART** - WITH 28 STAGE COACH HOLDUPS TO HIS CREDIT! HE ALWAYS TRAVELED ALONE - NEVER ROBBED PASSENGERS AND NEVER KILLED OR SHOT A MAN IN ALL HIS HOLDUPS - HE ONLY TOOK WELLS FARGO SAFES WHICH HE WOULD LEAVE BATTERED OPEN BY THE ROADSIDE WITH A POEM ATTACHED SIGNED 'BLACK BART' - BART WOULD COMPLETELY DISAPPEAR AFTER A JOB BY CHANGING HIS CLOTHES AND APPEARING MILES AWAY FROM THE ROBBERY AS THE GENTLE OLD PROSPECTOR! BUT LIKE ALL CRIMINALS, HE FINALLY MADE A MISTAKE! HE DROPPED HIS HANDKERCHIEF IN HASTY EXIT FROM HIS LAST ROBBERY - IT WAS TRACED TO CHARLES BOLES AND HE **CONFESSED** TO 7 YEARS OF CRIME!

HE WENT TO JAIL - BUT SO CLEVER HAD BEEN HIS DOUBLE LIFE THAT MANY PEOPLE REFUSED TO BELIEVE BOLES WAS 'BLACK BART'



CAPTAIN JOHN HUGHES
OF THE TEXAS RANGERS
"ALWAYS GOT HIS MAN!"

ONCE HE FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF HORSE THIEVES FOR 1200 MILES AND TOOK A WHOLE YEAR TO CATCH UP WITH THEM - HE WAS ALONE - ONE AGAINST SIX - HE KILLED 4 AND BROUGHT 2 BACK FOR TRIAL! 70 STOLEN HORSES WERE RETURNED TO THEIR OWNERS!



AN INDIAN
ON TRIAL FOR KILLING HIS FRIEND WHILE ON A HUNTING TRIP - WAS FREED ON THE MURDER CHARGE BECAUSE HE CONVINCED THE JURY THAT HE MISTOOK HIS FRIEND FOR A MOOSE - BUT - HE WAS SENTENCED TO 90 DAYS IN JAIL FOR HUNTING MOOSE OUT OF SEASON!



IN THE OLDEN DAYS A MAN ABOUT TO BE HANGED TIPPED THE HANGMAN - TO ASSURE A QUICK DEATH! TO INSURE PROMPTNESS -

IS THE MEANING OF 'TIP'



IN 1858
DUTCH KATE

ROBBED A STAGE COACH, TAKING THE SAFE BUT NOT ROBBING THE PASSENGERS - THE SAFE CONTAINED ONLY UNIMPORTANT PAPERS - BUT A PASSENGER SHE PASSED UP WAS CARRYING \$15,000 IN GOLD!



WEDDINGS WERE HEADLINE NEWS BUT - STAGECOACH ROBBERIES WERE SO COMMON IN 1875 THAT NEWSPAPERS REFUSED TO PRINT THEM AS NEWS - FROM 1870 TO 1884 - THERE WERE 313 STAGECOACH ROBBERIES IN CALIFORNIA ALONE - WITH 20 BANDITS KILLED AND SCORES SENT TO JAIL!

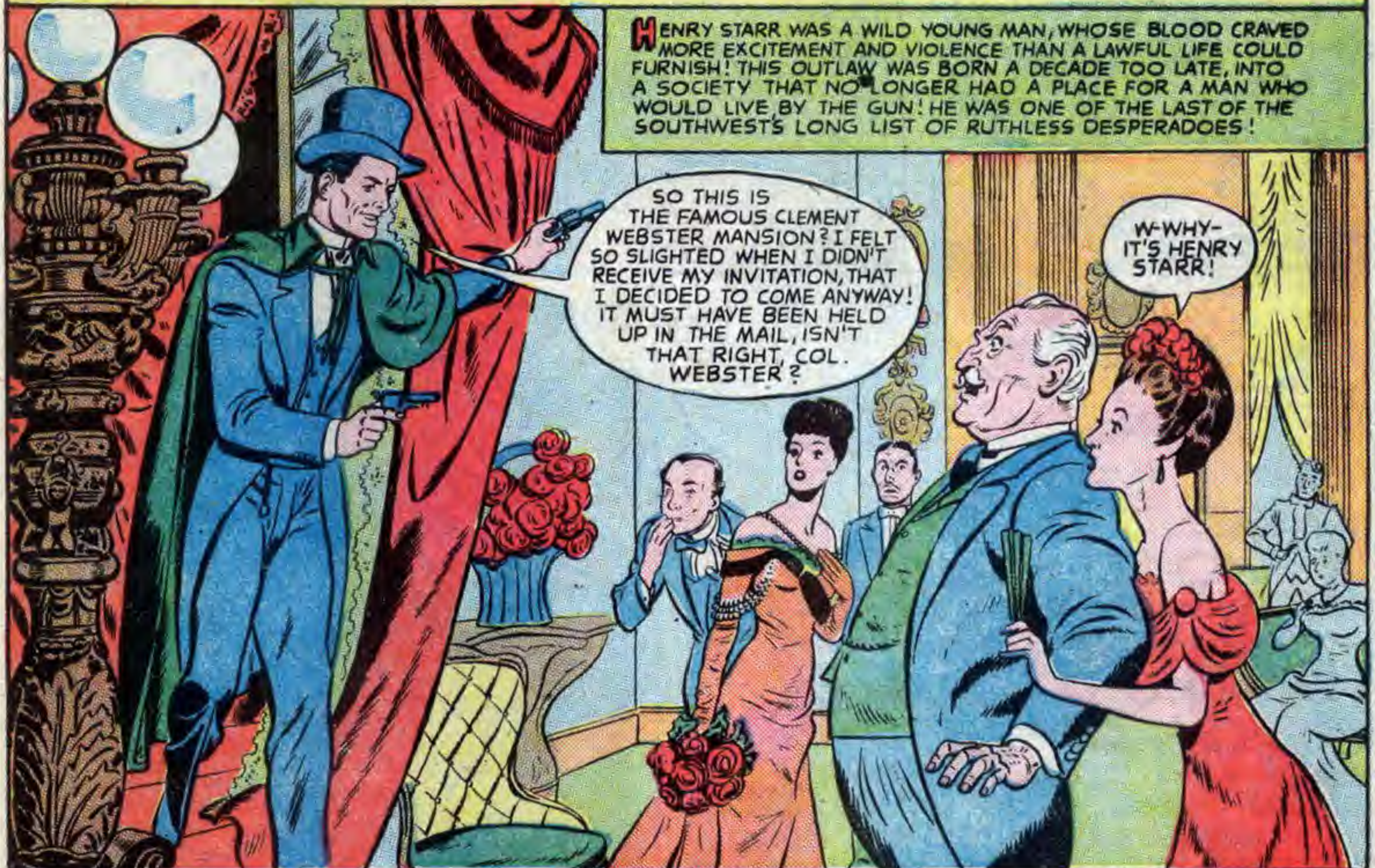
C.H. MOORE 316

OBEY THE LAW



HENRY STARR

FROM THE ELITE DRAWING ROOM TO THE
SMOKE-FILLED SALOONS OF THAT DAY,
EVERYONE KNEW OF HENRY STARR'S
KISS OF DEATH!



HENRY STARR WAS A WILD YOUNG MAN, WHOSE BLOOD CRAVED MORE EXCITEMENT AND VIOLENCE THAN A LAWFUL LIFE COULD FURNISH! THIS OUTLAW WAS BORN A DECADE TOO LATE, INTO A SOCIETY THAT NO LONGER HAD A PLACE FOR A MAN WHO WOULD LIVE BY THE GUN! HE WAS ONE OF THE LAST OF THE SOUTHWEST'S LONG LIST OF RUTHLESS DESPERADOES!

IN 1891, THE AREA THAT LATER CAME TO BE KNOWN AS OKLAHOMA, WAS SEETHING WITH VIOLENCE AND OVERRUN BY DESPERATE MEN, WHO HAD NO HOME BUT THE SADDLE!

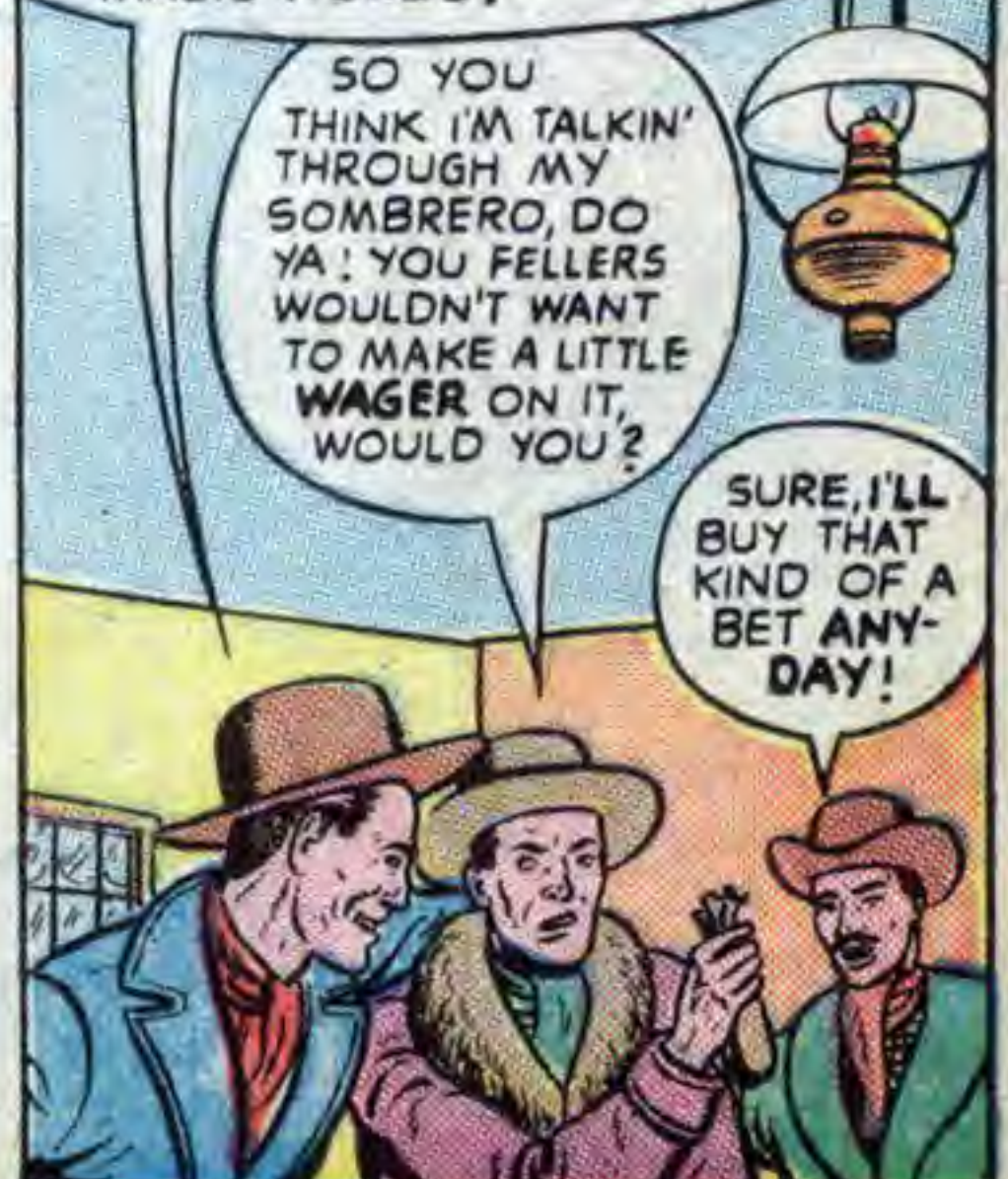
UNLESS MY EYES DECEIVE ME, THIS MUDHOLE OF A TOWN CALLS ITSELF FORT GIBSON! A FINE PLACE FOR A GUY TO HAVE TO SPEND HIS EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY! **BRRR**, I'M HALF FROZEN! DOG-GONE IT, WHY DIDN'T I THINK TO START OUT A MONTH AGO? BY NOW I COULD BE ENJOYING THE WARM CALIFORNIA SUNSHINE! OH, WELL, NO SENSE CRABBING TOO MUCH ABOUT IT-AT LEAST IT'S A TOWN-AND ALL TOWNS HAVE SALOONS!



THAT KID IN THE CORNER'S HEADED FOR CALIFORNIA! HE'S GOT A ROLL BIG ENOUGH TO CHOKE A HORSE, BUT HE THINKS HE'S BEING **SMART** NOT SHOWIN' IT OFF! ONLY HE'S **NOT SO SMART** BECAUSE HE DOESN'T KNOW HE'S LEAVIN' IT WITH **US** ON HIS WAY OUT!



KID, YOU MUST BE PLUMB LOCO, OR ELSE YOU'RE DRUNKER THAN WE THINK YOU ARE, IF YOU SAY YOU CAN DOUBLE THAT AMOUNT OF GOLD RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES- AND JUST BY SAYING A FEW MAGIC WORDS!



OBEY THE LAW

OKAY, KID, MAYBE YOU'RE DRUNK, BUT NOBODY CAN SAY SAM AND ME WEREN'T FORCED INTO TAKING YOUR MINT-AIN'T THAT RIGHT, BOYS? I'LL LAY THREE HUNDRED SIMOLEONS!

ANY OF THE REST OF YOU WANT TO GET IN ON THIS? I'M COVERIN' ALL BETS!

WHAT'S THE HURRY, LEM? A SHOOTIN' IN THE SALOON?

BETTER THAN THAT, JOE JUST PASSED THE WORD TO ME THERE'S A PIE-EYED STRANGER IN THERE BETTING EVERYBODY IN TOWN HE CAN DO SOME FOOL, IMPOSSIBLE STUNT! MUST BE ONE OF THOSE PLASTERED MINERS THAT HIT A BONANZA! I WANT TO GET MY MONEY DOWN WHILE I CAN!

HOLY COW! WAIT FOR ME!

GO AHEAD, STRANGER, YOU'VE COVERED HALF THE MONEY IN TOWN! NOW, DO YOUR MAGIC STUNT! HA, HA, HA!

CAN'T WAIT UNTIL YOU TAKE MY MONEY, CAN YOU-YOU BONE PICKIN' VULTURES? ALL RIGHT - I WANT EVERYBODY IN FRONT WHERE THEY CAN SEE BETTER, WHILE I GIVE THE MAGIC WORDS - NOW LISTEN CLOSE... THE MAGIC WORDS ARE...

STICK 'EM UP! YOU SEE, GENTLEMEN, HOW EASY IT IS! I DOUBLED MY MONEY, SO I WIN - NOW BACK UP AGAINST THE WALL AND DON'T ANYBODY MAKE A MOVE UNTIL AFTER I'M GONE!

DON'T BE A FOOL, STRANGER! YOU'LL NEVER GET FAR IN THIS WEATHER! JUST PUT THE MONEY BACK ON THE TABLE AND WE'LL CONSIDER THE WHOLE THING A JOKE! WON'T WE, BOYS?

DON'T EVER CALL A MAN WITH A GUN IN HIS HAND A FOOL - IT JUST PROVES YOU'RE ONE! THE FIRST MAN THROUGH THESE DOORS GETS THE SAME TREATMENT! SO LONG, SUCKERS!

THERE HE GOES! LET'S GO AFTER HIM! MAYBE WE CAN HEAD HIM OFF!

HE'LL NEVER GET THROUGH THE PASS-IT'S SNOWED OVER - COME ON!

WHAT'S ALL THE RUMPUS? WHAT HAPPENED?

SOME THIEVIN' STRANGER TRICKED US OUT OF \$3000, AND SHOT LEM PARROT! THAT WAS HIM THAT HIGH-TAILED IT PAST YOU JUST NOW, SHERIFF!

SNOWED IN! THAT'S WHAT COMES OF NOT LEARNIN' THE INS AND OUTS OF A TOWN, FIRST! I'LL HAVE TO HEAD BACK AND TRY TO FLOAT THE RIVER DOWNSTREAM! THOSE HOMBRES WILL TEAR ME IN LITTLE PIECES IF THEY EVER CATCH ME!

I'M THE SHERIFF! THROW UP YOUR HANDS, SON, OR I'LL BE FORCED TO SHOOT YOU!

YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT, NOW WOULD YOU, GRANDPA? I MIGHT GET HURT!

OBEY THE LAW

RATS-WHY DIDN'T THAT OLD FOOL TELL ME THERE WAS A POSSE BEHIND HIM! I'M GLAD I PLUGGED HIM-IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM, I'D BE ACROSS THE RIVER BY NOW! MY ONLY CHANCE NOW IS TRY TO OUTRIDE THE PACK! GET MOVIN', GINGER!



WE GOT HIS NAG! CHUCK, SPREAD OUT TO THE LEFT WITH SOME OF THE BOYS! IF THE KID TRIES SHOOTIN', GIVE IT TO HIM IN THE BACK!



WELL, COWBOY, THIS IS IT! YOUR NEW HOME FOR THE NEXT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS! BY THE TIME YOU GET OUT, YOU SHOULD BE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER!

THE PAPERS SAID YOU WERE FAST ON THE DRAW! MAYBE IF YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, THE WARDEN WILL LET YOU PRACTICE - IN THE ART CLASS!

I'M SPLITTIN' MY SIDES LAUGHING! HA, HA!



HEY, SLIM! THEY'RE POSTIN' THE NAMES OF THE PAROLEES TOMORROW-FIVE YEARS IN THIS SALT MINE IS ENOUGH! IF MY NAME AIN'T ON THE BOARD - SO HELP ME, I'M GOIN' TO CRACK OUT OF HERE, OR DIE TRYING! I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS LIFE!

AW, SHUT UP, STARR! IF YOU REALLY GOT ALL THOSE BIG SHOTS WORKING TO GET YOU OUT LIKE YOU SAY, THEN YOU'RE A CINCINCH! BUT THINK OF ME, IF I WANT OUT-I GOTTA BLAST MY WAY... AND I WILL!



YIPPEE! THERE IT IS, SLIM! STARR, HENRY! LOOK, THE NEXT TO THE LAST-NAME! DO YOU SEE IT? HALLELUJAH, STRIKE UP THE BAND-I'M GETTIN' OUT, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, SLIM...IT MEANS THAT...

YEAH, BUT I WON'T SELL YOU SHORT, SLIM! AS SOON AS I'M OUT, I'LL GET THOSE SAME GUYS WORKIN' ON A PAROLE FOR YOU!

DON'T TELL ME, I KNOW IT BY HEART! IT MEANS YOU'LL BE IN ST. LOUIS IN A WEEK! IT MEANS ACTION, FUN, MONEY, THE WHOLE WORKS! IT MEANS AFTER KNOCKIN' OFF A COUPLE OF PUSHOVER BANKS, YOU'LL BE ON YOUR WAY TO CALIFORNIA, AMEN!



SO THIS IS THE JOINT! NOT A BAD LAY-OUT, IF YOU GO FOR THIS KIND OF THING... BUT I DON'T! THE OLD MAN HAD TO GET ME A JOB HERE BEFORE HE COULD SECURE MY PAROLE AND NOW I GOTTA GO TO WORK FOR THIS OUTFIT! HOLY CATS-MAYBE I CAN TALK MYSELF OUT OF IT!

SO, YOU SEE, HENRY, WHEN YOUR FATHER CAME TO ME, NATURALLY I WAS HAPPY TO DO WHAT I COULD FOR THE SON OF AN OLD FRIEND! ALSO YOUR FATHER TOLD ME OF YOUR STRONG DESIRE TO GO TO CALIFORNIA-I JUST WANT TO WARN YOU, HENRY, IF YOU SKIP OUT ON ME, YOU'LL BE BREAKING THE TERMS OF YOUR PAROLE! FURTHERMORE, I'LL DO ALL IN MY POWER TO SEE THAT YOU'RE SENT BACK TO PRISON!

IT LOOKS LIKE I'M TRAPPED FOR THE TIME BEING ANYWAY!

I UNDERSTAND MR. LEWIS-I WON'T FAIL YOU, AND THANKS FOR GIVIN' ME THIS CHANCE!



I KNEW YOU'D SEE IT MY WAY, MY BOY! FROM NOW ON WE'LL START FRESH! LET'S FORGET YOUR LITTLE MISTAKES ONCE AND FOR ALL, SHALL WE? OH, BY THE WAY-I WANT YOU TO COME TO THE VANUPS' PARTY WITH ME TONIGHT! IT'LL BE A GOOD CHANCE FOR YOU TO MEET SOME IMPORTANT PEOPLE! IT'S GOOD BUSINESS FOR A REAL ESTATE MAN TO KNOW THE RIGHT PEOPLE! STOP BY THE CASHIER'S WINDOW ON YOUR WAY OUT AND HAVE HIM GIVE YOU AN ADVANCE ON YOUR SALARY!

AW, DRY UP-YOU SMUG OLD FOOL! YOU REALLY THINK I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, DON'TCHA? YOU GOT ME EATING HUMBLE PIE NOW, BUT YOU JUST WAIT...I'LL SHOW YOU!

THANKS, MR. LEWIS!



OBEDY THE LAW

YOU'RE POSITIVELY THE MOST INTERESTING MAN AT THIS DANCE, MR. STARR! ALL YOUR STORIES OF OUTLAWS AND INDIAN FIGHTS ARE FASCINATING! I'LL JUST BET YOU MUST BE RELATED TO THAT FAMOUS BELLE STARR!

YES, MA'AM, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, MY FATHER SAID SHE WAS A DISTANT COUSIN!

WELL, I'LL BE - IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A PRACTICING MEMBER OF MY TRUE PROFESSION HERE TONIGHT!

IF YOU'LL PARDON ME FOR A MINUTE, MISS GLADYS, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

I'LL JUST SNEAK UP ON HIM FROM BEHIND AND RELIEVE HIM OF THOSE OYSTER EGGS!

IT'S A DIRTY TRICK TO DO THIS TO ONE OF YOUR BLOOD BROTHERS, BUT THOSE PEARLS WILL GIVE ME ENOUGH DOUGH TO SKIP WITH AND TO LIVE IN STYLE FOR A FEW MONTHS!

I'LL JUST LEAVE HIM HERE AND GET BACK...WHAT THE...

LOOK! THERE ARE MY PEARLS! THAT NEW YOUNG MAN HAS CAUGHT THE THIEF, GLADYS!

CALL THE POLICE! STARR'S CAUGHT THE JEWEL THIEF!

HENRY, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU WERE GOING AFTER! YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN HURT!

I'M NEXT, GLADYS, - AFTER ALL, THEY WERE MY PEARLS! IMAGINE, HE CAUGHT HIM SINGLE-HANDED!

THAT WILL MAKE THE GUY THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER BACHELOR IN ST. LOUIS! CAN YOU TIE THAT FOR LUCK?

I WISH SOMEONE WOULD STEAL MY JEWELS! NOTHING EVER HAPPENS TO ME!

WEREN'T YOU SCARED? NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT?

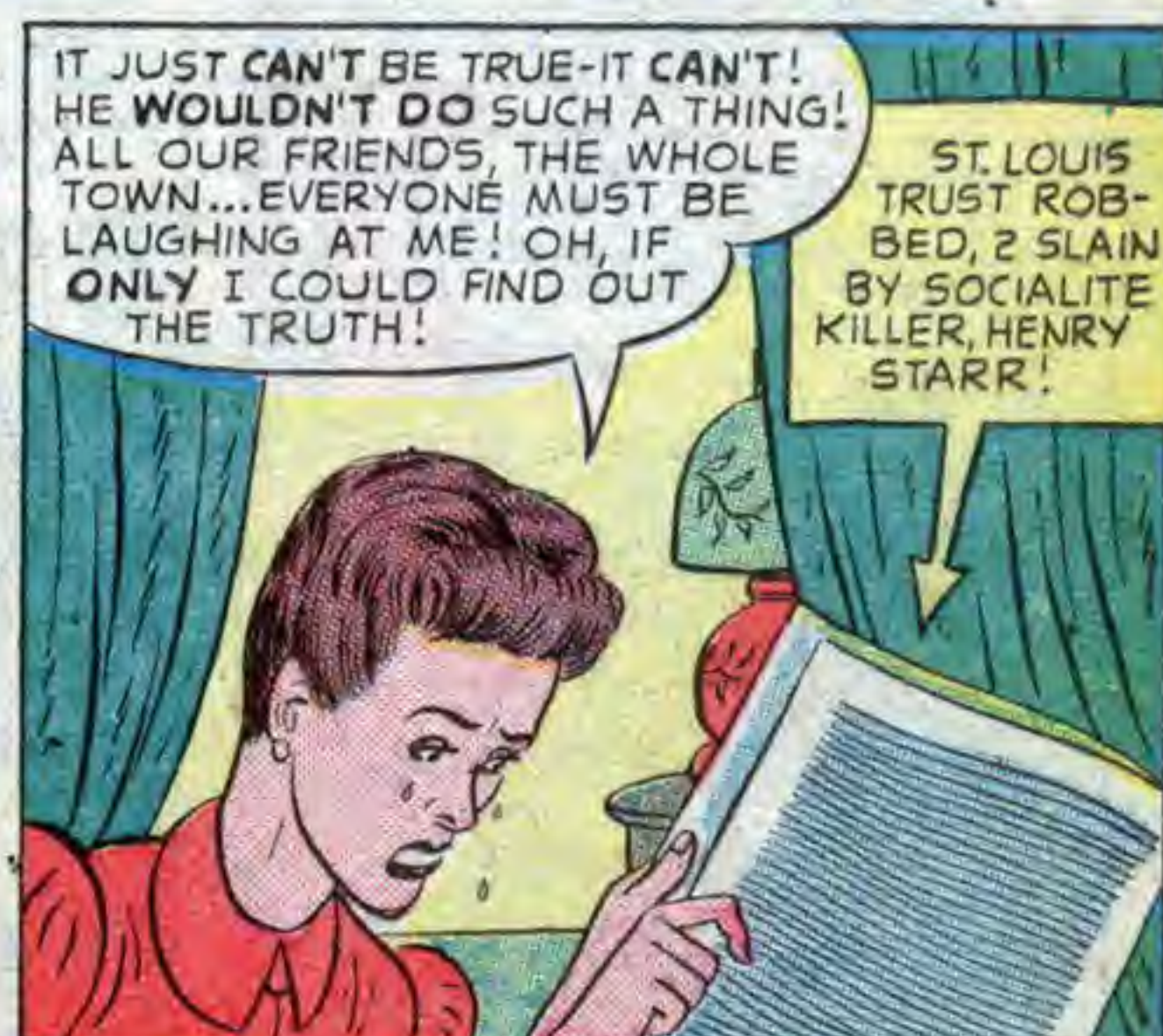
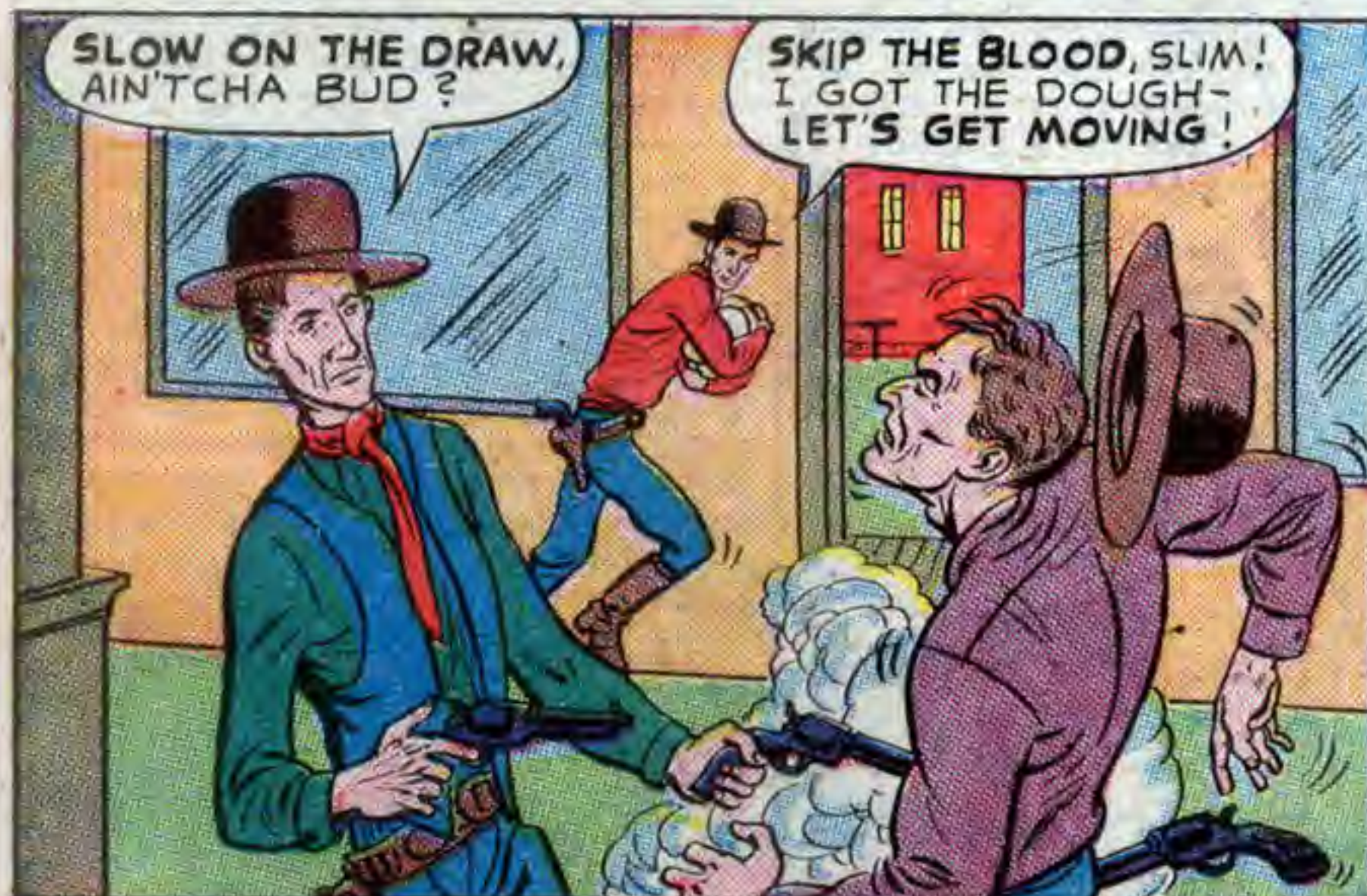
HENRY'S LUCK WAS ONLY BEGINNING! THE MAN'S MAGNETIC PERSONALITY MADE FRIENDS FOR HIM EVERYWHERE AND WON HIM THE BELLE OF ST. LOUIS!

I HEREBY PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE, AMEN!

WELL, MY BOY, AFTER HONEYMOONING FOR A WHOLE MONTH, ARE YOU READY TO PUT YOUR NOSE BACK TO THE OLD GRINDSTONE?

I'M AFRAID IT ONLY SERVED TO GIVE ME AN APPETITE FOR TRAVELING! I WAS JUST THINKING, IT MUST BE WONDERFUL OUT IN CALIFORNIA THIS TIME OF THE YEAR!

OBEY THE LAW



OBEY THE LAW

HENRY STARR TOOK SLIM'S ADVICE AND FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS THE STARR GANG UNLEASHED A REIGN OF TERROR, MARAUDING THROUGHOUT THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF MISSOURI, KANSAS, OKLAHOMA AND COLORADO! NO BANK WAS SAFE FROM THEIR DREADED ATTACKS!



FEW OUTLAWS ARE WILLING TO REALIZE THAT A BANDIT LIVES OR DIES BY HIS HENCHMAN, BUT IN A SMALL COLORADO TOWN, ONE OF STARR'S FOLLOWERS WAS SPINNING A NET FOR HIM!

SO THAT'S HENRY STARR, THE FAMOUS OUTLAW! HE DON'T LOOK SO ORNERY TO ME!

THEY NEVER DO—WHEN THEY'RE CAUGHT! I HEAR HE'S GOT A 25 YEAR STRETCH COMIN' AND THAT IT WAS ONE OF HIS OWN GANG THAT TURNED HIM IN!

STARR'S GOOD CONDUCT AND OUTSIDE INFLUENCE SOON TURNED THE KEY—AFTER SERVING ONLY 5 YEARS, HE WAS PARDONED, ON HIS PROMISE THAT HE WOULD "MAKE GOOD"! HE DID!

I KNOW YOU'VE DONE ALL RIGHT FOR FIVE YEARS WITHOUT ME LEADING YOU! BUT WITH ME, YOU CAN DO BETTER! I'VE DONE A LOT OF THINKIN' IN JAIL AND I'VE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO WORK OVER A LOT OF PLANS! I PROMISE YOU THERE'LL BE NO LEAN PICKINGS FOR ANY OF US! WHATTA YA SAY?

YOU'RE ON, STARR!

HENRY STARR WILL NEVER USE HIS FISTS ON ME AGAIN! NOBODY PUSHES ME AROUND AND GETS AWAY WITH IT... NOBODY!

MY, AIN'T HE THE HANDSOME GENTLEMAN! WHO'D EVER THINK HE COULD HAVE DONE THOSE TERRIBLE THINGS!

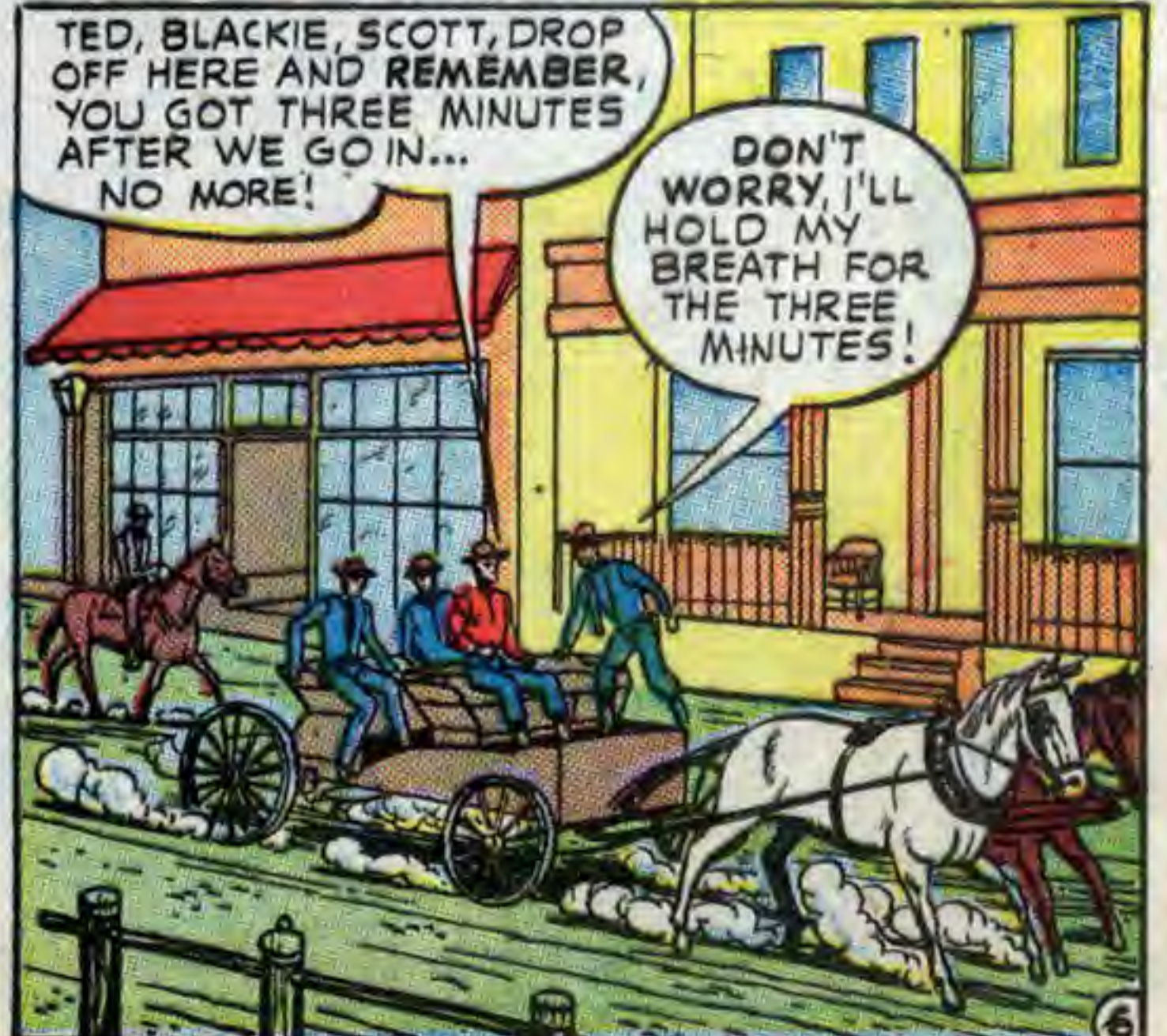


STROUD HAS A BANK AND A WELLS FARGO COMPANY! AND IF WE WORK FAST ENOUGH, WE CAN TAKE 'EM BOTH BEFORE THE TOWN KNOWS WHAT'S UP! WE'LL GO BY BUCKBOARD SO'S NOT TO LOOK SUSPICIOUS! SLIM, AT EXACTLY 2:32, YOU'RE TO RIDE BY, LEADIN' THE HORSES... GOT THAT?

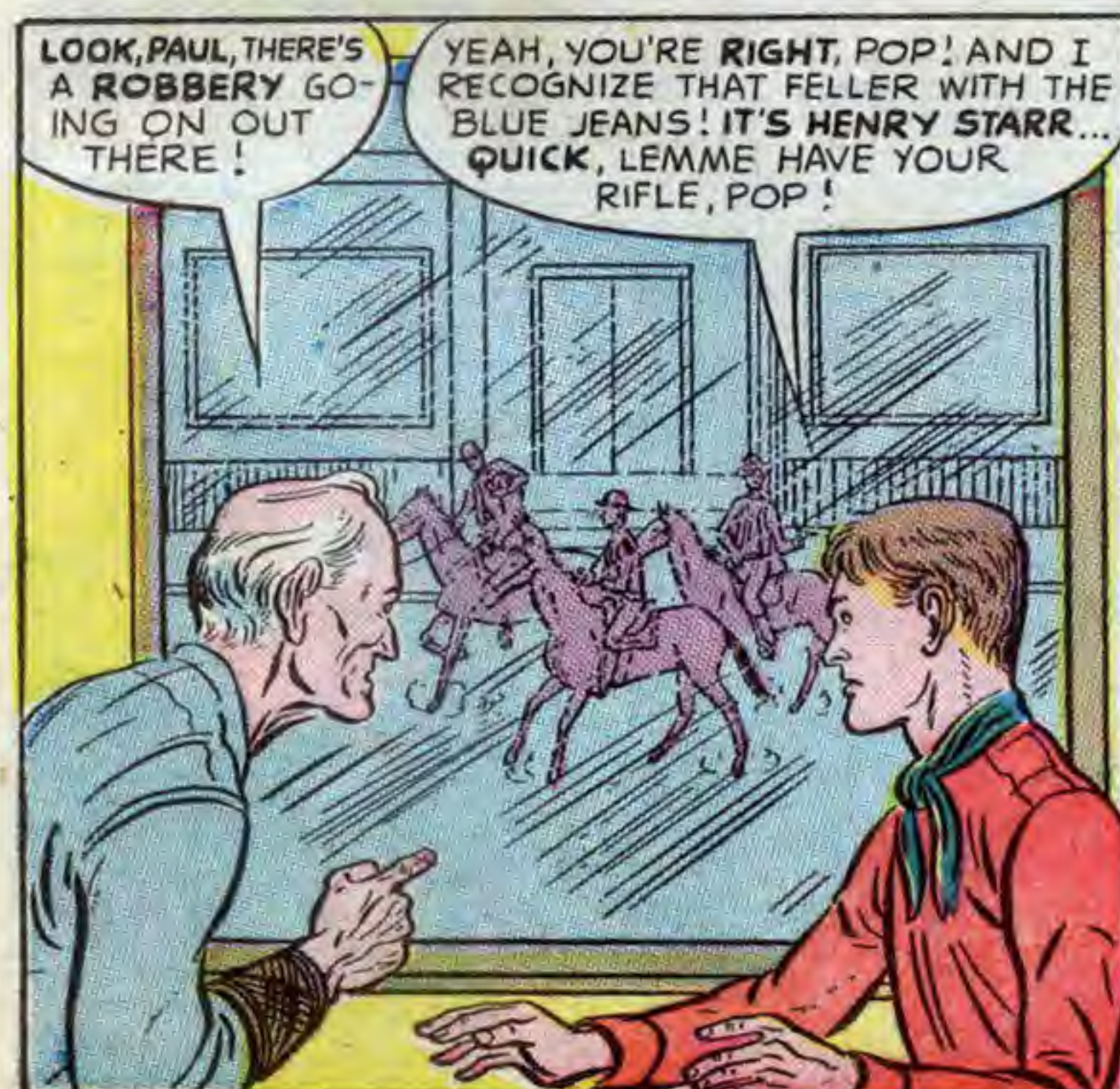
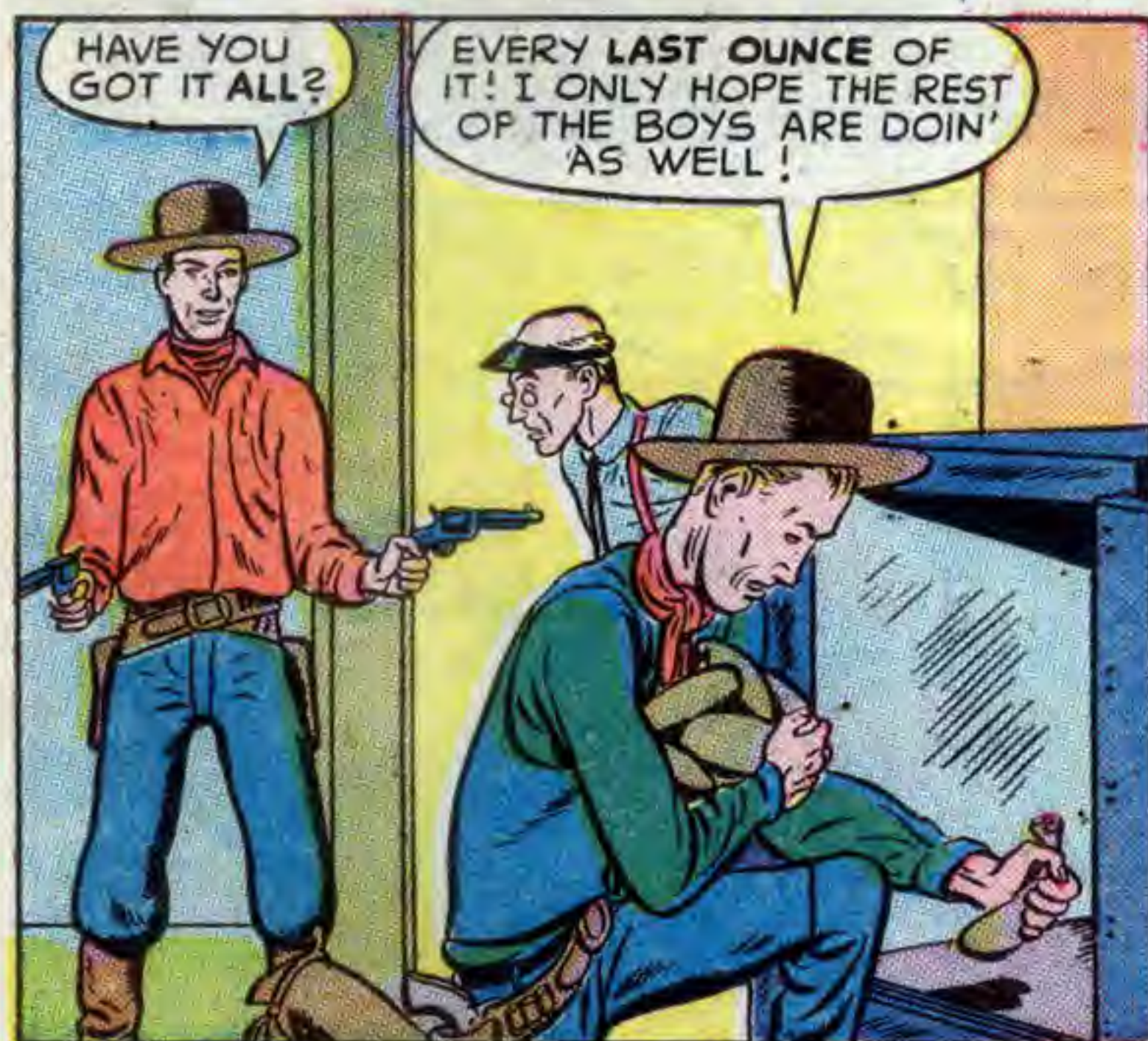
YEH, SURE, BUT LET TED DO THAT! I WANNA BE IN ON THE STICK-UP! I ONLY NEED TWO MORE NOTCHES TO MAKE AN EVEN 20!

TED, BLACKIE, SCOTT, DROP OFF HERE AND REMEMBER, YOU GOT THREE MINUTES AFTER WE GO IN... NO MORE!

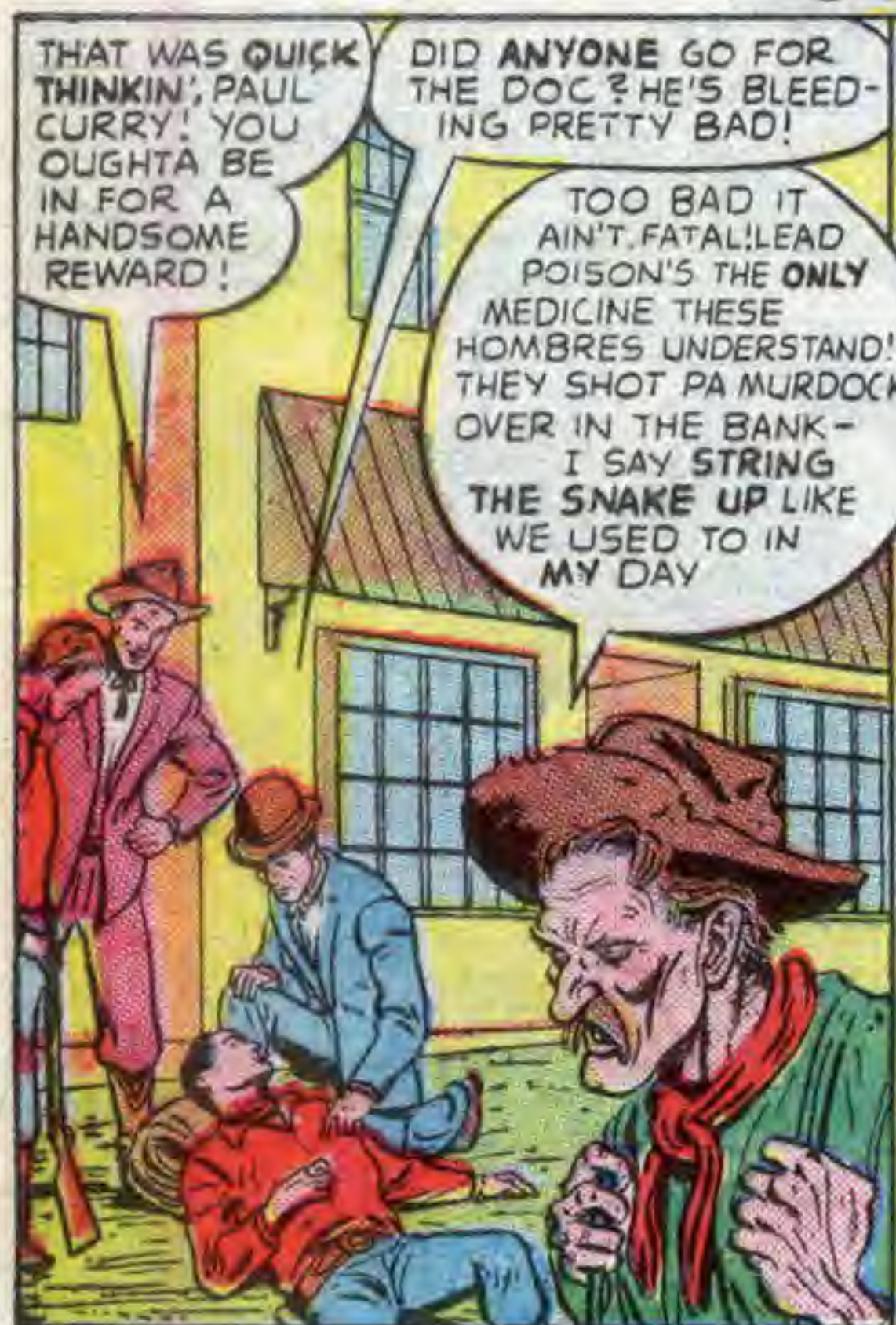
DON'T WORRY, I'LL HOLD MY BREATH FOR THE THREE MINUTES!



OBEY THE LAW



OBEDY THE LAW



THAT WAS QUICK THINKIN', PAUL CURRY! YOU OUGHTA BE IN FOR A HANDSOME REWARD!

DID ANYONE GO FOR THE DOC? HE'S BLEEDING PRETTY BAD!

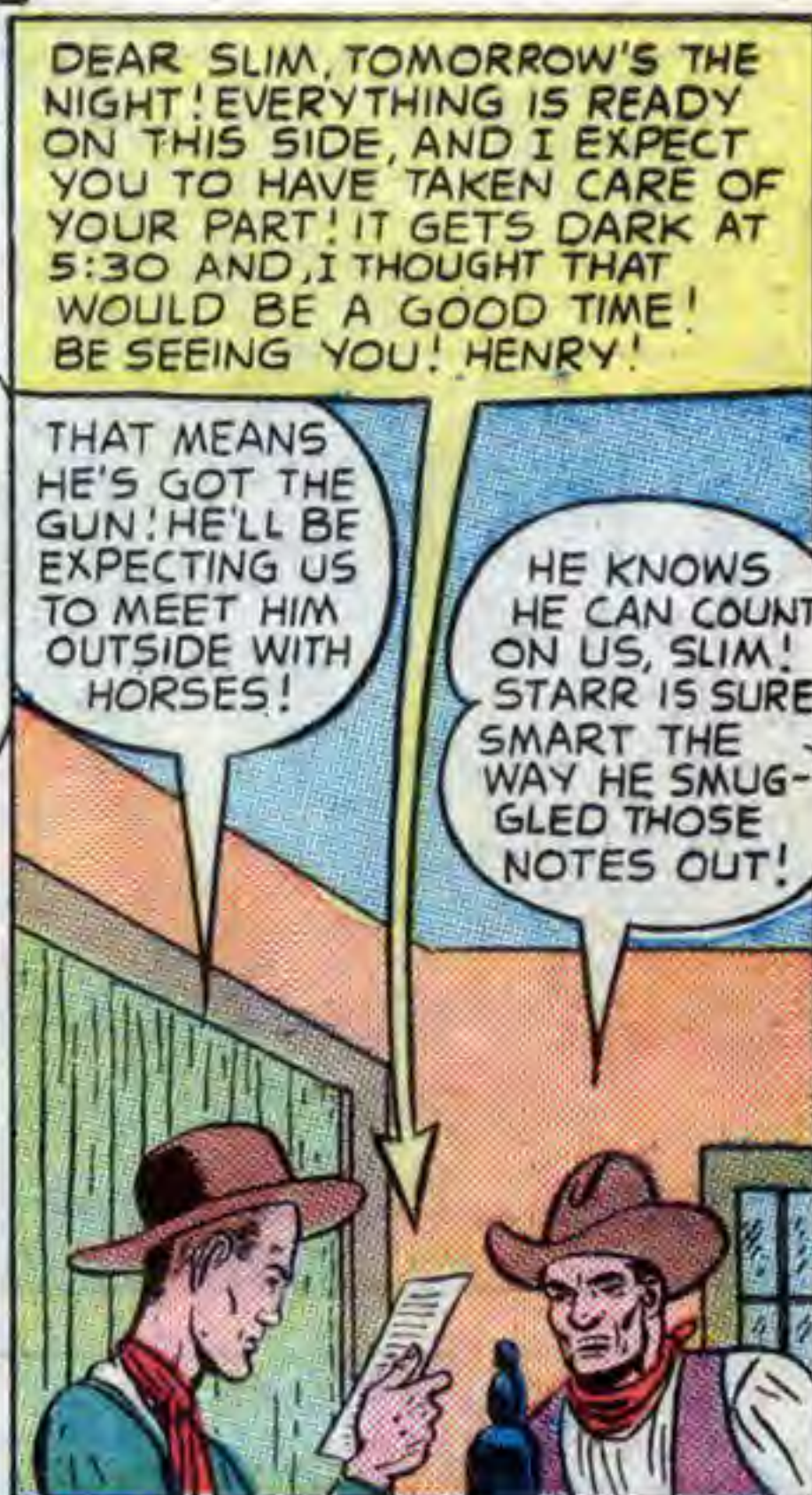
TOO BAD IT AIN'T FATAL! LEAD POISON'S THE ONLY MEDICINE THESE HOMBRES UNDERSTAND! THEY SHOT PA MURDOCK OVER IN THE BANK - I SAY STRING THE SNAKE UP LIKE WE USED TO IN MY DAY



A 25 YEAR RAP! IT MEANS ANOTHER FIVE YEARS BEFORE I CAN GET OUT ON PAROLE!

I'VE ALREADY PUT IN 10 YEARS OF THIS STRETCH AND NO SIGN OF A PARDON COMING YET!

I MADE A DEAL WITH ONE OF THE BOYS TO GET A GUN TO ME! BUT I'LL NEED HELP FROM THE OUTSIDE! SLIM - I GOT HIM OUT ONCE - NOW HE CAN REPAY ME!



DEAR SLIM, TOMORROW'S THE NIGHT! EVERYTHING IS READY ON THIS SIDE, AND I EXPECT YOU TO HAVE TAKEN CARE OF YOUR PART! IT GETS DARK AT 5:30 AND, I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME! BE SEEING YOU! HENRY!

THAT MEANS HE'S GOT THE GUN! HE'LL BE EXPECTING US TO MEET HIM OUTSIDE WITH HORSES!

HE KNOWS HE CAN COUNT ON US, SLIM! STARR IS SURE SMART THE WAY HE SMUGGLED THOSE NOTES OUT!



HEY STARR, WHAT'S ALL THE YELLIN' ABOUT? ARE YOU SICK?

OW-WW, THIS PAIN! MY OLD WOUND OPENED UP! I CAN FEEL IT TEARIN' INSIDE! COME CLOSER, TOM, HELP ME...

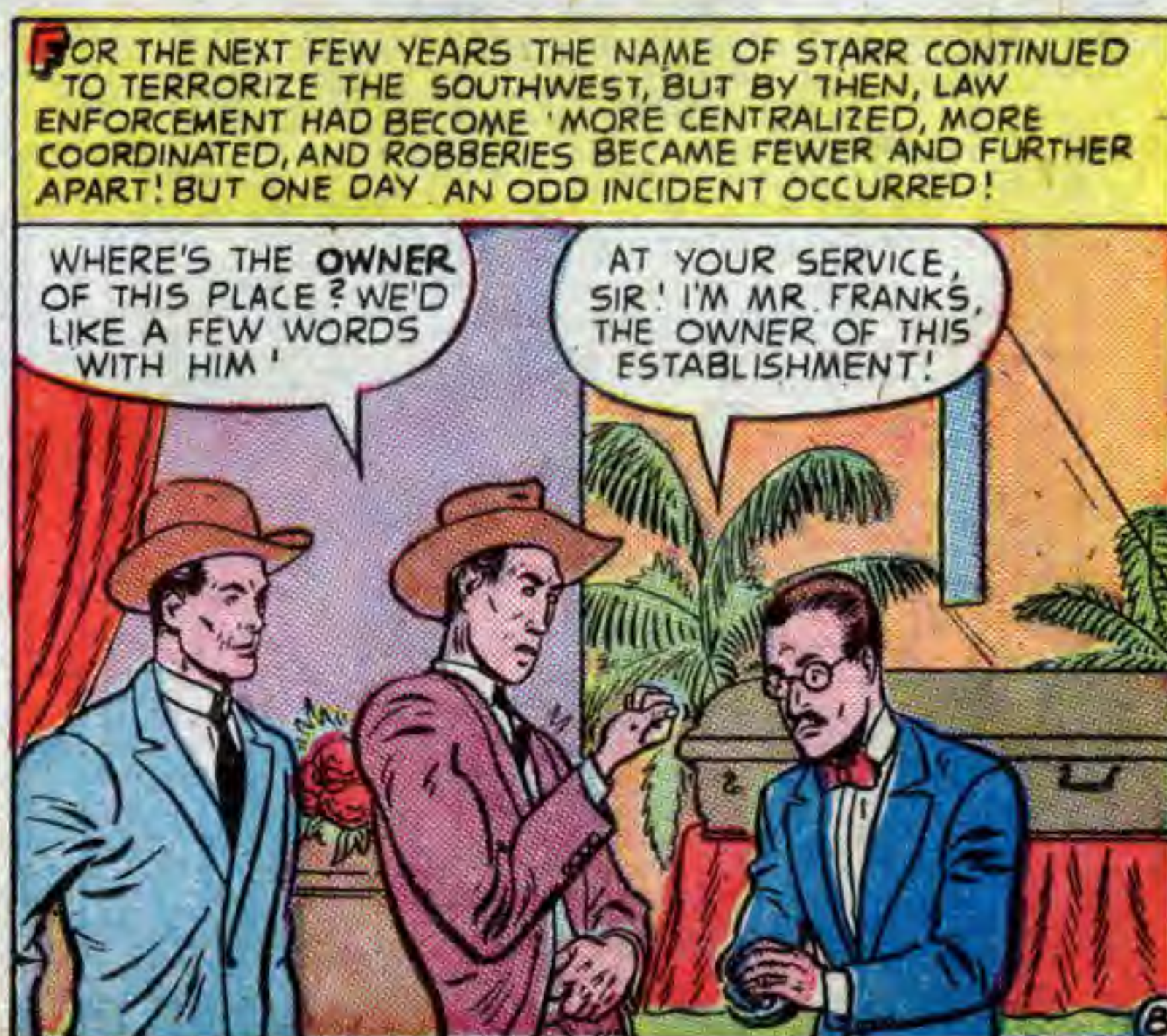


ONE PEEP OUT OF YOU, AND I'LL BLAST YOUR FOOL HEAD OFF! UNLOCK THIS DOOR... QUICK!

SURE... ANYTHING YOU SAY, STARR, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD IT'LL DO YOU! HOW FAR DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET?



FOLLOW JIGGER STARR - I'LL HOLD THEM OFF FOR A FEW MINUTES! AND DON'T WORRY, THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CATCH US IN THE DARK WITH HORSES!



FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS THE NAME OF STARR CONTINUED TO TERRORIZE THE SOUTHWEST, BUT BY THEN, LAW ENFORCEMENT HAD BECOME MORE CENTRALIZED, MORE COORDINATED, AND ROBBERIES BECAME FEWER AND FURTHER APART! BUT ONE DAY AN ODD INCIDENT OCCURRED!

WHERE'S THE OWNER OF THIS PLACE? WE'D LIKE A FEW WORDS WITH HIM!

AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR! I'M MR. FRANKS, THE OWNER OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT!

OBEY THE LAW

SOME DAY YOU'LL READ THAT HENRY STARR WAS KILLED WHILE HOLDING UP A BANK! WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I WANT YOU TO SEE THAT I'M BURIED DECENTLY WITH MY BOOTS ON! I BELIEVE THIS WILL DO IT!

HENRY STARR! W-WHY, S-SURE... OF COURSE... I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF!

SEE THAT YOU DO, FANCY PANTS, OR YOU MIGHT BE NEEDING SOME SERVICE YOURSELF, GET ME?



EVERYTHING'S ALL SET FOR TOMORROW, SLIM? IT OUGHTA MAKE US A NICE HAUL! I SUPPOSE YOU THINK I'VE GONE PLUMB LOCO, GOING TO THAT UNDERTAKER LIKE THAT, HUH?

IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S LIKE PUTTING THE HAND-WRITING ON THE WALL YOURSELF! YOU KNOW, I AIN'T HAD A NOTCH FOR OVER A MONTH! "OLD RACKATEE" HERE FEELS ALMOST NAKED, DON'T YOU, PET?



THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL BANK OF HARRISON, ARKANSAS, BECAME THE LATEST TO FALL FOR ONE OF HENRY STARR'S INNUMERABLE STICK-UP PLOTS!

NEVER MIND THAT PALTRY LOAN! LET'S GET DOWN TO SOME BIG BUSINESS - GET UP AND MOVE QUIETLY OVER TO THE VAULT! THEN GET IT OPENED! ONE YAP AND I SHOOT!



SHALL I LEAVE THE GATE OPEN, MR. STUART?

YES... THAT IS, YES - WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

SKIP THE GAG - GET THAT VAULT OPEN - BUT FAST, IF YOU WANT TO GO HOME TO THE KIDDIES TO-NIGHT!



GET IN AND START HELPING ME COLLECT THAT MAZUMA!

IF ONLY I CAN GET TO THAT SHOT-GUN!



DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO STAY WHERE I COULD KEEP MY EYE ON YOU... NO... DON'T!



LIKE MOST CRIMINALS, HENRY STARR WENT TO HIS DEATH PLEADING FOR THE MERCY HE HAD NEVER SHOWN HIS VICTIMS! HIS LIFE OF CRUELTY AND ROBBERY CAME TO THE VIOLENT END ALL LAWBREAKERS MEET!

PLEASE - HARGHH... SLIM WAS RIGHT - I PUT... HANDWRITIN' ON... WALL MYSELF... ARRGGH!



SLIM, THE HOMICIDAL KILLER, WAS HUNTED DOWN AND SHOT TO DEATH BY A VENGEFUL POSSE! HIS NOTCHED "RACKATEE" HAD FORSAKEN HIM AT LAST!

I'VE BEEN WAITING A COUPLE OF YEARS FOR THIS DAY, SHERIFF - EVER SINCE HE MOWED DOWN MY OLD MAN FOR NOTHING!

YEAH, I KNOW, JEB! LOOK, THERE'S ROOM FOR ONE MORE NOTCH ON HIS GUN - FOR SLIM, HIMSELF!



THE END

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THE KILL-CRAZY FLETCHER BROTHERS THEY TERRORIZED HOLBROOK, ARIZONA IN THE 1880'S



OF ALL Western Cow Country, there was no place tougher than Apache County, Arizona, and of the entire Apache County, no town was tougher and harder-bitten than the junction town of Holbrook. Here a man lived by industry, wits and two six-guns strapped to his hips.

But there was law in Holbrook. There were trials and there were juries. In 1887, a sheriff's job there was a man-sized one. The rugged individual who accepted the post of sheriff knew he was a marked person, whose days might be numbered.

One of Holbrook's most desperate bands was a family known as the Fletchers. The father, Hank Fletcher, and one brother, Roy, had been killed in a feud between cattlemen and shepherders. The remaining four sons, Danny, the leader and most desperate, Ben, Frank and Kingsley, the youngest, who was but sixteen, were each a dead shot in his own right. They had been the scourge of law-abiding citizens for some time. Their crimes had run down the list from horse stealing to murder and no one was safe before a Fletcher shootin' iron.

On September 4, 1887, Frank Fletcher saw the new sheriff riding into town. He ran quickly to Danny.

"There's a new sheriff ridin'

in," he said. "Maybe he's lookin' for ya, Danny. What a long mop of hair he's got—all the way down to his shoulders."

"We'll just hole up in the house and give him a hot meetin'," answered Danny, grimly. "I heard tell he's quite an hombre, who reckons on bringing me in. We'll see about that."

The younger brother grinned and fingered the guns hanging at his belt. "I know he'll go after us right away, Danny, but he don't know what we look like, does he?"



Danny bit off a chew of plug and uttered a hoarse, raucous laugh. "So what! He'll find out soon enough. Get the boys over here right away," he ordered. "We'll cover him from every window when he comes up. Most likely that will be enough to

give him a change of heart!"

The new sheriff was well over six feet tall and called himself Andrew Jackson Wheeler. He was a man in his middle thirties and was a person you could not easily forget. Some loafers down at the livery stable hid their grins as the man approached, and shifted uneasily before the steady, steel-piercing gaze of the lawman.

"Any of you men know where I'll find Danny Fletcher?" he asked. His voice was deep and sure of itself. The loungers shifted their gaze away from the long, blonde, curly hair, hanging down to Wheeler's shoulders. If they had thought he looked like a showman, they began to believe the show would not be at the sheriff's expense.

"He's apt to be at home," said one, who had shortly before seen Danny and Frank Fletcher enter their house, a short distance from the stable. "He lives over there." Then curiosity overcame the uneasiness of the one the sheriff had addressed. "Say, ya don't aim to swap lead with 'em Fletchers, do ya? Not with that there long gun? Why, man, they'll drill ya afore ya kin swing that there barrel into place!"

"I'm not lookin' for a fight," replied Wheeler, "but I reckon if it comes with the servin' of

this here warrant, it'll have to come." With that he strode away and made his way down the wide, dirt street toward the house where death waited in the hands of the four desperadoes.

The four brothers watched disdainfully as the sheriff approached. Here was a man who didn't ring true, nohow. A bluffer who'd soon know the Fletchers dealt in lead. Here was a man claiming to be tough, who wore his hair down his back like a woman, who hadn't learned how to carry his six-gun, who had the foolhardiness to try to capture four ruthless killers, each of whom toted two six-guns, while he carried one rifle.

As Andrew Jackson Wheeler turned from the street toward the house, he clutched his Winchester in his hands and moved steadily up the short distance to the porch of the dwelling. It was a frame building in the shape of an "L," one door opening onto the porch at Wheeler's side and another one facing him. Two windows looked out upon the porch.

Wheeler knew the desperate character of the man he was going to arrest, but he did not waver a moment.

"Danny Fletcher, come out!" the sheriff called. This warning might be his death trap, but the law required the sheriff to call

out and he did not shirk his duty.

The door Wheeler faced opened a crack. Sullenly, Danny Fletcher glared out at the sheriff.

"Come out for what?" he demanded. The tense, bony fingers



of the thief and killer tightened on the weapon aimed through the door opening at the sheriff.

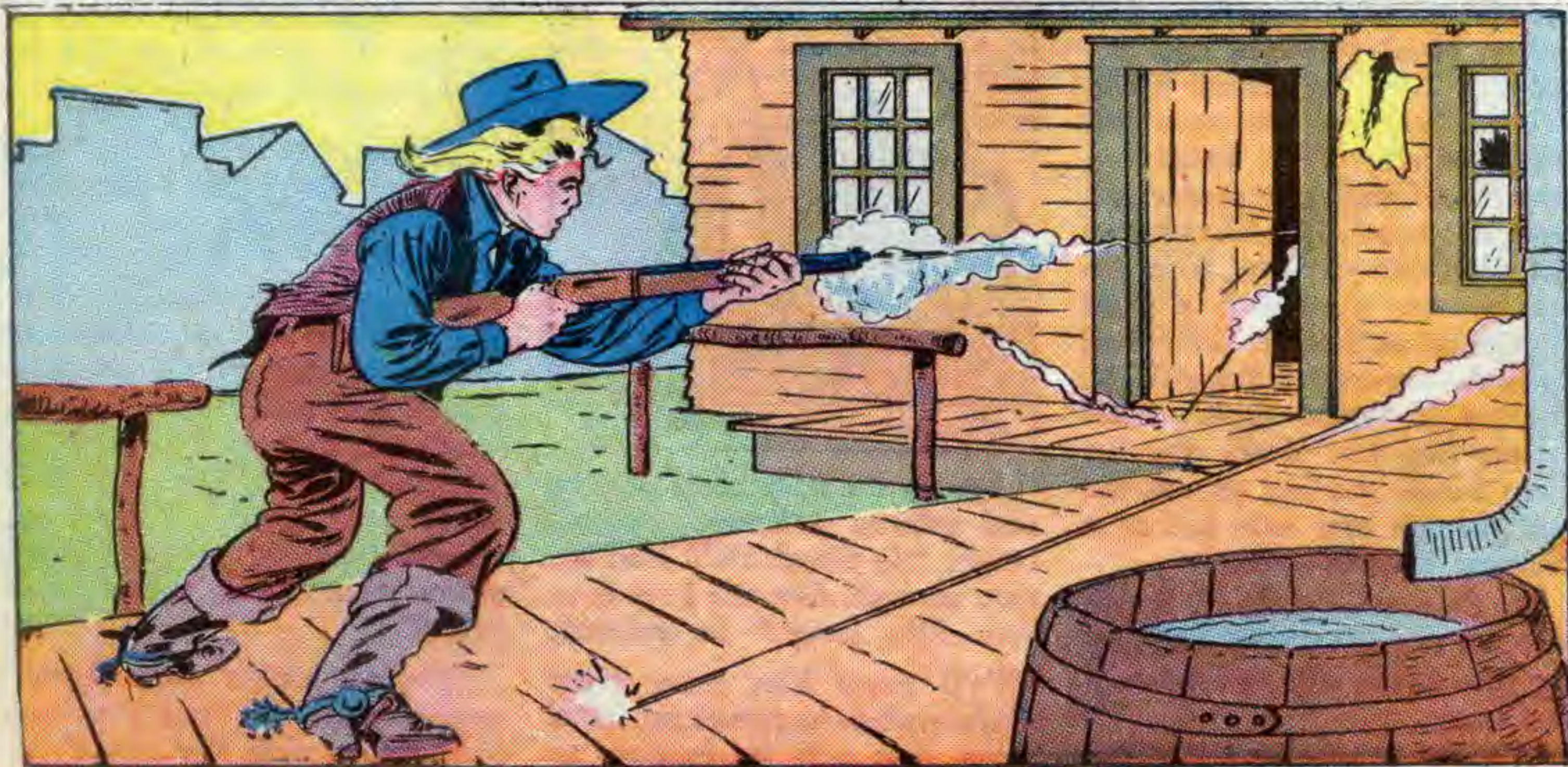
"I have a warrant for your arrest for horse stealing and I intend to serve it!" Wheeler's voice boomed out so that it could be heard at the livery stable. "Are you coming out, or do I have to come in for you?"

There was no answer but the

flash and blast of a gun in the hands of the desperado. And yet, as quickly as the bullet flew from Danny Fletcher's gun, even quicker was the steel-nerved sheriff, both in wit and agility. Wheeler, anticipating the move, stepped aside with speed of a trigger pull and fired his Winchester through the door. Danny Fletcher groaned but once and sagged at the knees. He did not return the fire. He was down with a rifle slug through his middle.

As Wheeler fired, he anticipated the three other killers who were in the house. He danced nimbly, fired once more at the crack in the other door. He had to turn about, almost, to do so, but his movements were so fast that the second Fletcher bullet missed him. And a miss at this cool-headed giant, the Fletchers were learning, was as good as a one-way ticket to boothill.

Wheeler fired again from the deadly rifle that the Fletchers had joked about! A slug tore at the hand of Frank Fletcher and put him out of the running, for good. But Wheeler knew that to stand there constantly making himself a target would not do. He wheeled and sprang back to the street. It was a sixth sense that saved him. For from the house another brother ran. Ben Fletcher had hoped to get Wheeler in the back by circling



from the rear of the building.

But the wily sheriff was once more one move ahead of his adversaries! Without even raising his rifle, Wheeler fired. The



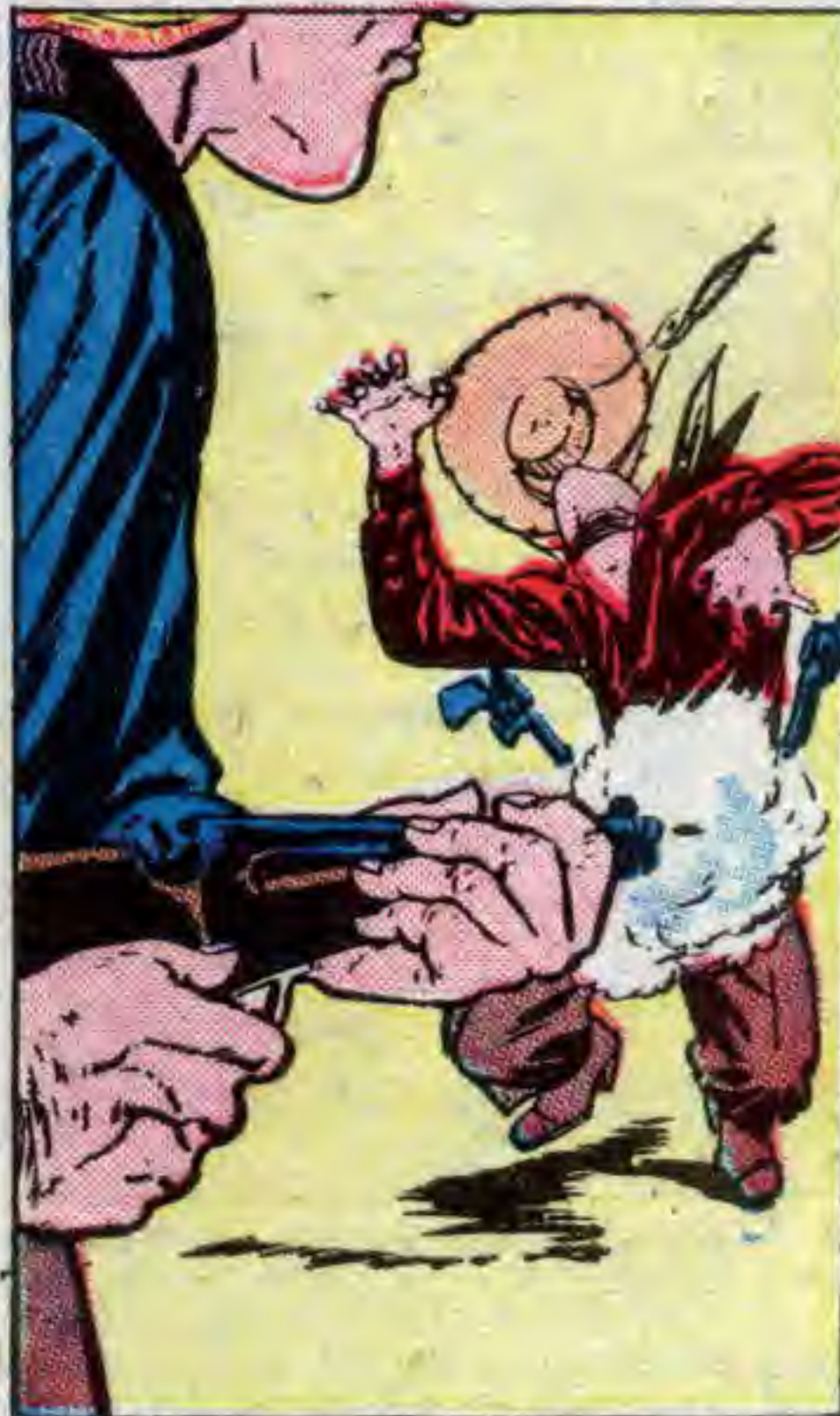
deadly gun, which even while running the sheriff had reloaded, was aimed true and accurate. Blood spurted from the throat of the hapless Ben. An artery had been severed and he was done for. The third brother had gone down now and there was but one to go.

Wheeler shouted, "Come out with your hands raised, if you

want to live!"

Kingsley Fletcher barged out onto the porch, but his hands were raised only in the effort to lift his guns and kill. With the merest flick of his wrist, Wheeler had reloaded once more. A twitch of his trigger finger and a blast from the Winchester and the last of the Fletcher outlaws dropped with a bullet through his heart.

Andrew Jackson Wheeler entered the house. To his surprise, he found the mother of the outlaws almost beside herself with grief, begging for help. Wheeler did what he could. Danny was done for, but still



alive. Frank Fletcher, his hand practically shot away, was in an agony of pain. He would live to spend the rest of his days in prison. It was not a pretty sight.



Wheeler felt a little sick. He got medical aid for the wounded and left, tearing up the warrant against the dying Danny Fletcher as he walked away. It would not be needed now.

"Too bad," he thought, as he strode to his horse, "that Danny didn't have sense enough to accept his warrant and take his arrest. It was too bad he and his brothers thought they could live beyond the law."

Wheeler muttered as an afterthought, "It doesn't pay. You can't tamper with the rights of others."

THE END



OBEY THE LAW

TETON JACKSON

BAD MEN HAVE BEEN CALLED MANY NAMES, FROM COYOTE TO DESERT RAT, BUT ALL COMBINED WOULD BE UNDERSTATEMENTS IN DESCRIBING HIM!

A
TRUE
WILD WEST
STORY

WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
TETON JACKSON



SIX FEET TALL
RED HAIR
HEAVY SET
\$10,000 REWARD

YOU
FEDS'LL
NEVER GET
ME!

WATCH
OUT! IT'S
TETON!

AGHH!

THE TETON FASTNESSES BEYOND BUFFALO, WYOMING WERE THE HIDEOUTS OF WYOMING'S MOST FEROCIOUS DESPERADO, "TETON" JACKSON! HERE TETON WAS KING! THIEVES WERE HIS VASSALS AND SCORES OF BAD MEN RECOGNIZED HIM AS THEIR LEADER! OPENLY HE BOASTED THAT THE LAW COULD NOT TOUCH HIM! BUT SHERIFF FRANK CANTON TOOK A VOW TO GET TETON! WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS ENOUGH TO RAISE THE HAIR ON THE SCALP OF A BALD MAN!

Drawn by
FRED GUARDINER

FORT MADDOX, UTAH... A SPRING NIGHT IN 1876!

HALT!
DISMOUNT
AND
IDENTIFY
YOURSELF!

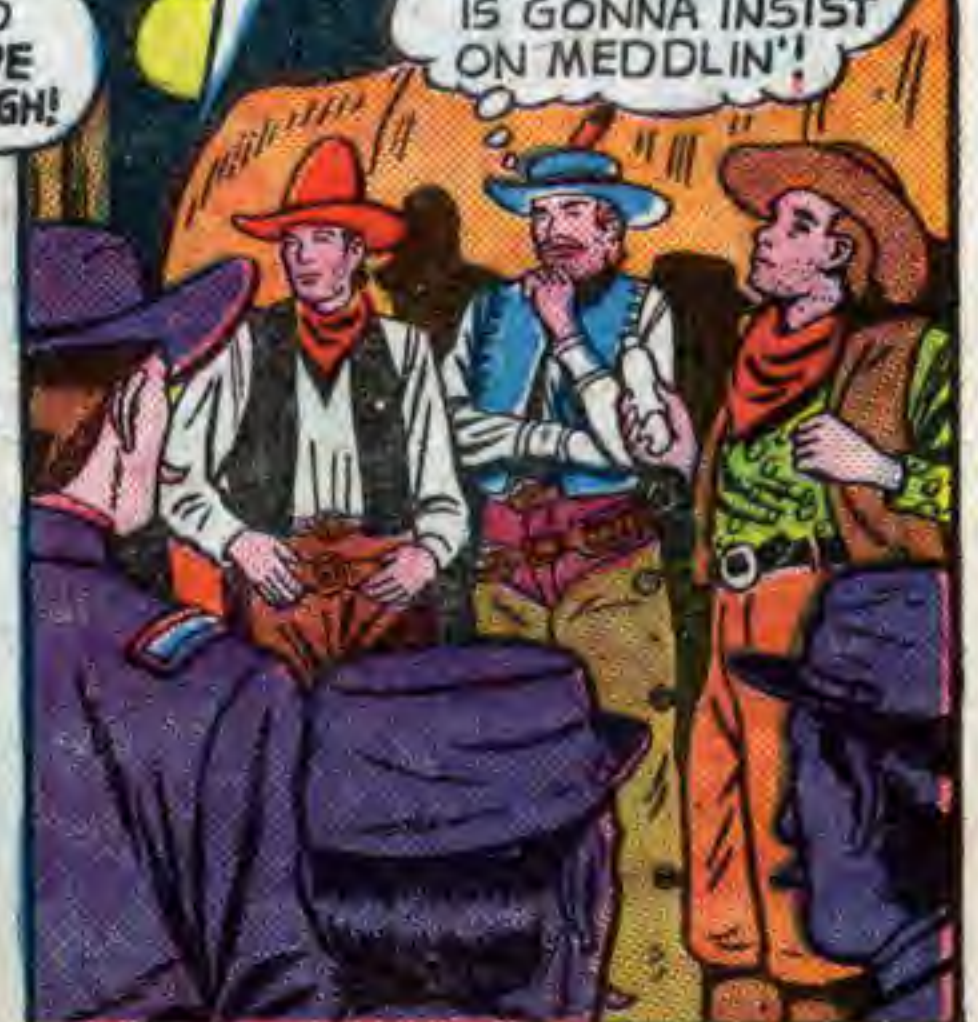
TETON JACKSON AND HIS PACK TRAIN, LEAVING FORT MADDOX FOR FORT CUMBERLAND... AND IN A HURRY, TOO! LIEUTENANT GENERAL CROOK WANTS THIS STUFF IN CUMBERLAND IN TWO DAYS!

THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR INSPECTION, JACKSON! THERE'S BEEN MORE STEALING OF GOODS AND RUSTLING OF ANIMALS THIS YEAR THAN IN THE WHOLE HISTORY OF THE FORT! LET'S SEE YOUR SHIPPING PAPERS!

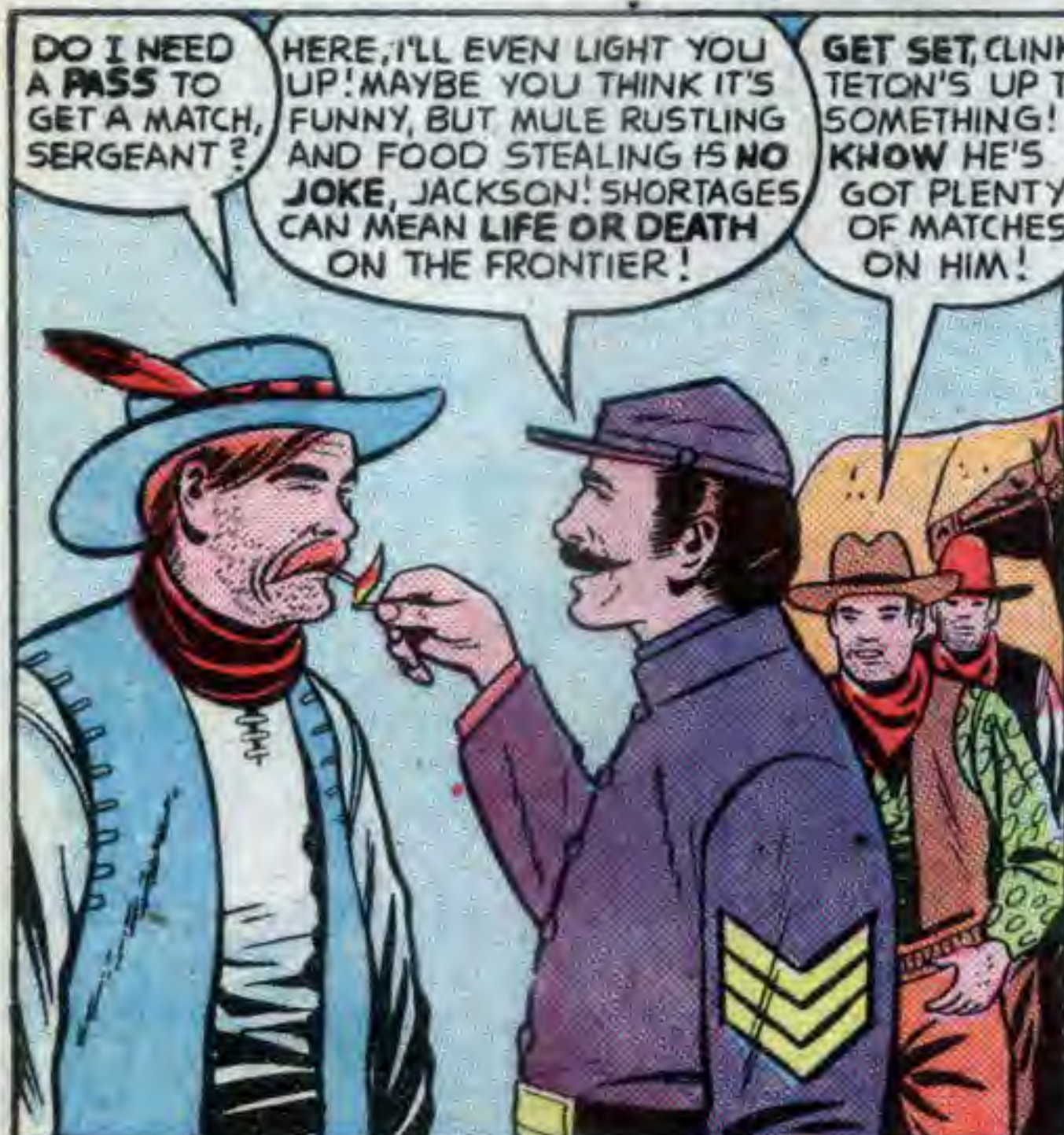
THE GENERAL WAS IN SUCH A HURRY, I GUESS, HE FORGOT TO MAKE 'EM OUT! YOU KNOW ME, LIEUTENANT, SO SKIP THE RED TAPE AND LET US THROUGH!

I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF WHAT'S RED TAPE AND WHAT ISN'T! YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH PASSING THROUGH OUR GATES WITHOUT PAPERS, JACKSON! WATCH THESE MEN, SERGEANT! I'M GOING TO GENERAL CROOK!

SO THE OLD FOOL IS GONNA INSIST ON MEDDLIN'!



OBEDY THE LAW



DO I NEED A PASS TO GET A MATCH, SERGEANT?

HERE, I'LL EVEN LIGHT YOU UP! MAYBE YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY, BUT MULE RUSTLING AND FOOD STEALING IS NO JOKE, JACKSON! SHORTAGES CAN MEAN LIFE OR DEATH ON THE FRONTIER!

GET SET, CLINK! TETON'S UP TO SOMETHING! I KNOW HE'S GOT PLENTY OF MATCHES ON HIM!



CLINK! RORY! PLUG THE SOLDIERS AN' GET ON YER HORSES!

ARGHH!

TETON! THE LIEUTENANT'S COMING BACK! HE'S GOT ANOTHER OFFICER WITH HIM!

WHAT THE DEVIL!



LEAVE THE LIEUTENANT TO ME!



WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT THE PACK TRAIN?

FORGET IT! WE GOT JUST ABOUT A FIVE MINUTE START, BEFORE THE WHOLE FORT IS ON OUR HEELS!

T-TETON! JACKSON-GASP! HE'S THE RUSTLER.. H-HE.. HE.. OHHH!

LIEUTENANT FRENCH IS DEAD, SIR!

SEND A PATROL AFTER THE COYOTE! WIRE ALL ARMY POSTS AND SHERIFFS... WE WANT JACKSON AND HIS PARTNERS DEAD OR ALIVE!

TWO DAYS AN' TWO NIGHTS WE DONE NOTHIN' BUT RIDE! FOR PETE'S SAKE, TETON, I AIN'T MADE OF IRON! MY HORSE AIN'T NEITHER.. HE'S FIT TO DROP!

SO'S MINE! WE LOST THEM TIN SOLDIERS LONG AGO! WHY CAN'T WE PUT UP FOR A NIGHT?

WE WOULDN'T HAVE LOST 'EM, IF WE HADN'T KEPT RIDIN'! HEAD FOR THAT HOUSE YONDER! WE'LL SLEEP IN COMFORT TONIGHT!

ARGHH!



KING! COME BACK HERE! THAT'S NO WAY TO GREET STRANGERS!

LET HIM COME! HE DON'T BOTHER US NONE!

THERE WAS NO CALL FOR YOU TO SHOOT THAT DOG! KING WAS ONLY TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY! YOU SHOT HIM DELIBERATELY!

SEEMS THAT WAY, DON'T IT? STAY AWAY FROM THAT RIFLE, MISTER! I DON'T LIKE SHOOTING MY HOST!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE I'D BETTER! YOU CAN'T TRUST A MAN WHO GOES FOR HIS RIFLE WHEN YOU PLUG HIS HOUND DOG! HE CAN SEND YOU UP SALT RIVER WHILE YOU'RE SLEEPING, AN' SINCE WE'RE TOO TIRED TO TAKE TURNS WATCHIN' YOU, MISTER, SHOOTING'S THE BEST THING ALL AROUND!

YIIII!



ARGHH!

OBEDY THE LAW

TETON OUGHTN'T TO HAVE PLUGGED THE OLD MAN BEFORE HE SHOWED US THE LAY-OUT HERE! I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' HIGH AN' LOW FOR THE COFFEE!

MAYBE THERE AIN'T NONE! I FOUND SOME TEA AND THERE'S PLENTY OF OTHER GRUB! BUT PUTTIN' ON THE FEED BAG AIN'T WHAT'S WORRYIN' ME! WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

ANY PLACE YOU WANT! LOSING YOUR NERVE, RORY?

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT! SURE, WE'VE BEEN IN SCRAPES BEFORE! THAT SHERIFF WE BLASTED IN KANSAS, IN '72! THE TROUBLE WE HAD IN TEXAS THE YEAR AFTER! THAT NECK-TIE PARTY WE SLIPPED OUT OF IN ARIZONA! I AIN'T FORGOT NONE OF IT! BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT, TETON, WE KILLED FIVE ARMY MEN!

RORY'S RIGHT! WHEN THE GOVERNMENT GETS AFTER YOU, YOU MAY AS WELL CASH IN YOUR CHIPS! I REMEMBER A GUY ONCE WHO...

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT! ALL THIS YELLOW TALK GIVES ME A PAIN IN THE BELLY!

I AIN'T CRAWLIN' INTO NO GOPHER HOLE, OR HANDIN' MY NECK OVER TO SOME BRASS BUTTONS TO BE STRETCHED! I'VE DONE A HEAP OF THINGS IN MY TIME... ALL OF 'EM AS BAD AS WHAT HAPPENED AT FORT MADDOX! I DIDN'T GET COLD-FOOTED THEN - I AIN'T TURNING GREEN NOW! IF THE ARMY WANTS ME... LET 'EM COME AND GET ME! WE'LL MAKE TRACKS FOR IDAHO IN THE MORNING AND THAT'S ALL WE'LL SAY ABOUT IT!

SURE, TETON, DON'T GET EXCITED! WE WAS JUST WONDERING! HAVE SOME CHILI CON...

BUCHANAN, UTAH! WE'RE LESS THAN FIFTY MILES FROM THE IDAHO BORDER! WANT TO STOP FOR A DRINK, TETON?

WHY NOT? THE WAY YOU GUYS SHAKE EVERY TIME WE COME INTO A TOWN, GRIPES ME! SOMETIMES I THINK I'M TRAVELING WITH A COUPLE OF GUN SHY SQUIRRELS!

NOT SO LOUD, TETON! THE LESS ATTENTION WE ATTRACT, THE BETTER! BUCHANAN AIN'T SO SMALL IT HASN'T GOT A SHERIFF!

WELL, GENTS! NAME YOUR PLEASURE!

PASS OVER A BOTTLE OF RYE! WE'LL TAKE IT TO A TABLE!

NOT ME! I WANT NOTHIN' HARD! GOT ANY VINO?

HEY, THOSE THREE REMIND ME OF SOMETHING I HEARD IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE THIS MORNING!

THE SHERIFF RECEIVED A WARNIN' THAT THREE RUSTLERS MIGHT BE HEADED THIS WAY! ONE OF 'EM IS THAT BIG FELLER'S SIZE, WITH RED HAIR! THEY KILLED FIVE SOLDIERS AT FORT MADDOX!

THEY SHORE DON'T ACT PRETTY! I'D GO FOR THE SHERIFF, JACK!

VAMOOSE! THIS TABLE IS TAKEN!

THANKS FOR TIPPING US OFF, JACK! BUT I'D BETTER MAKE SURE BEFORE I PINCH THEM! I'LL TAKE A GOOD, LONG GANDER AT THE RED HEAD, THEN I'LL KNOW!

I WOULDN'T MAKE IT TOO LONG SHERIFF! HE'S AN UGLY CUSS, IF I'VE EVER SEEN ONE!

TETON, I AIN'T SURE, BUT THAT SHERIFF AT THE CORNER TABLE IS GIVIN' US THE ONCE OVER!

WALK TO THE DOOR LIKE NOTHING'S WRONG! IF THE LIZARD STOPS US, START SHOOTIN' AND KEEP SHOOTIN'! NOW COME ON!

JUST A MINUTE, STRANGER! I WANT A WORD WITH YOU!

TAKE NO CHANCES! WHEN YOU TURN, TURN SHOOTIN'!

OBEDY THE LAW



OBEY THE LAW

BUFFALO AIN'T CHANGED A BIT! SAME OLD COW TOWN! ALWAYS IS SOME EXCITEMENT GOIN' ON!

THE SHERIFF'S CORNERED THE TIM DODGE GANG AT THE LIDO CABARET! THERE'LL BE A NECK-TIE PARTY TOMORROW, THE LIKES OF WHICH AIN'T NEVER BEEN SEEN IN BUFFALO! THERE'S SEVEN BAD MEN IN THAT DODGE OUTFIT!

WELL, TIM! YOU'VE REACHED THE END OF THE TRAIL! YOU AND YOUR CROWD WILL BE HANGING FROM A COURT-HOUSE BEAM AT NOON TOMORROW!

64!?! YOU CAN GO PLUMB STRAIGHT TO...

HOLD IT, TIM! NO CURSIN'! THE DEVIL MIGHT HEAR YOU! HE DRAFTS GUYS LIKE YOU FOR HIS BRIMSTONE MINES!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE DEVIL, BUT I'M LISTENING! IT'S ABOUT TIME I WORKED WITH A GANG AGAIN!

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' PARDNER? SOMEBODY GET HURT?

DODGE! DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! TAKE IT ON THE LAM!

WHERE'D HE COME FROM?

BANG! BANG! BANG!

FOLLOW ME! I KNOW THE TETON HILLS LIKE A BOOK!

AFTER WHAT YOU JUST DID, BROTHER, YOU COULD TAKE ME UP SALT RIVER AND I'D FOLLOW YOU!

BUFFALO HOTEL

LIDO C

HILLS, DID YOU SAY? THIS IS LIKE CLIMBIN' UP THE SIDE OF A WALL!

ANY POSSE THAT'D CHASE US HERE IS LOCO! WE'D BLOW 'EM TO BITS FROM THE TOP OF THE HILLS!

THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE - THE TETON HILLS ARE A NATURAL FORT!

LEM AN' ME FOLLOWED 'EM UP INTO THE TETON HILLS, JUDGE! IT'LL TAKE A MIGHTY BIG POSSE TO BRING 'EM BACK!

WE'LL GET A BIG ONE, IF I HAVE TO DEPUTIZE EVERY MAN IN BUFFALO! I WANT DODGE AND THAT RED-HEADED MURDERER WHO SAVED HIS NECK FROM SWINGING IN THE BREEZE! HE KILLED FIVE MEN, INCLUDING SHERIFF MASTIN!

SADDLE

TETON! JIM! LOOK! A POSSE OF ABOUT FORTY MEN COMIN' THIS WAY!

FORTY MEN! AND WE'RE ONLY SIX! SADDLE THE HORSES!

TAKE IT EASY, JIM! THE FOOLS HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE! THEY'VE GOT TO MOVE SINGLE FILE THROUGH THE CANYONS! TWO MEN COULD HANDLE THAT POSSE!

CAREFUL, MEN, THEY CAN MAKE IT AWFUL ROUGH FOR US, UP HERE!

YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL! WE'RE LIKE CLAY, PIGEONS WITH THIS SINGLE FILE APPROACH! IT'LL BE A CINCH FOR THOSE CUTTHROATS TO KNOCK US OFF!

GET READY, HERE THEY COME!

OBEY THE LAW

BULLETS TO THE FRONT OF 'EM,
BULLETS TO THE RIGHT OF 'EM,
BULLETS TO THE LEFT OF 'EM!
THIS IS BETTER THAN
DUCK HUNTIN'!

GET BACK!
WE'RE
AMBUSHED!
WE...
ARGHH!

AMBUSHED IS
PUTTING IT WLD!
THIS IS A RIP
SNORTIN' MAS-
SACRE! LET'S
FOLLOW 'EM
WITH OUR
HORSES!

AND GIVE 'EM AN EVEN
CHANCE AGAINST US?
SUCCESS IS GOIN' TO
YOUR HEAD, TIM! LET
'EM GO! THEY WON'T
BOTHER US AGAIN,
NOT AS LONG AS WE
HOLD THE TETON
HILLS!

WE CAN GO ANYWHERE, DO
ANYTHING WE WANT-WE'LL
NEVER CATCH US! WE'LL
TURN THE TETON HILLS
INTO A HIDEOUT FOR
EVERY HOMBRE THAT'S
IN BAD WITH THE LAW!

WE'LL MAKE A FORTUNE!
RUSTLERS WILL BRING
THEIR HORSES HERE TO
BE HIDDEN AN' BRANDED!

GUYS ON THE LAM
WILL BEG US TO
TAKE 'EM AN' HIDE
'EM-AT MY PRICE!

WE'LL BUILD A GANG THE LIKES
OF WHICH AIN'T BEEN SEEN
IN THE WEST! WE'LL OPERATE
AS FAR WEST AS CALIFORNIA
AN' AS FAR NORTH AS
CANADA!

WE'LL MAKE BUFFALO OUR
PLAYGROUND! WE'LL RIDE IN
AN' TAKE IT OVER EVERY TIME WE
NEED LAUGHS! ANYBODY
WHO STANDS UP TO US, WE'LL
PUT TO BED WITH A SHOVEL!
BUFFALO WILL BE THE
GRAVEYARD OF SHERIFFS!

IT'S THE
SECOND
TIME THIS
WEEK HE'S
TAKEN
THE
TOWN!

RUN! IT'S
TETON
JACKSON!

TWENTY
BUCKS A
HEAD? IT'S
ROBBERY,
TETON!

THAT, COMIN'
FROM THE
WORST HOSS
THIEF IN
WYOMIN', IS
PLUMB
FUNNY,
JEB!

\$500!
BUT I
CAN'T
PAY THAT,
TETON!

TOO BAD,
BUDDY! MAYBE
THE SHERIFF'LL
PUT YOU UP
FOR LESS!

ARGHH!



I'M FRANK
CANTON,
THE NEW
SHERIFF!
WHAT
HAPPENED
HERE? THE
DEPUTY
WAS
SUPPOSED
TO MEET
ME!

HE ISN'T IN
SUCH GOOD
CONDITION,
SHERIFF!
TETON
JACKSON
HANGED
HIM OVER
YONDER
AT THE
BARN!

IF I WAS YOU, SHERIFF,
I'D TAKE THE NEXT
STAGE BACK EAST!
TETON'S HANGED
FOUR SHERIFFS IN
A ROW! IT'S A STAND-
ING JOKE WITH HIM!
HE CALLS HIMSELF
THE 'SHERIFF-
HANGER'!

MY FIRST JOB AS
SHERIFF OF BUFFALO
IS TO BRING THAT
MURDERER TO
JUSTICE! WE HEARD
ABOUT TETON
BACK EAST, BUT
WHAT I'VE SEEN
TODAY SPEAKS
LOUDER THAN
WORDS!

BUT HE'S
UP IN THE
HILLS! HE
DROVE-
GULCHED
THE LAST
TWO POSSES
WHO TRIED
TO REACH
HIS HIDE-
OUT!

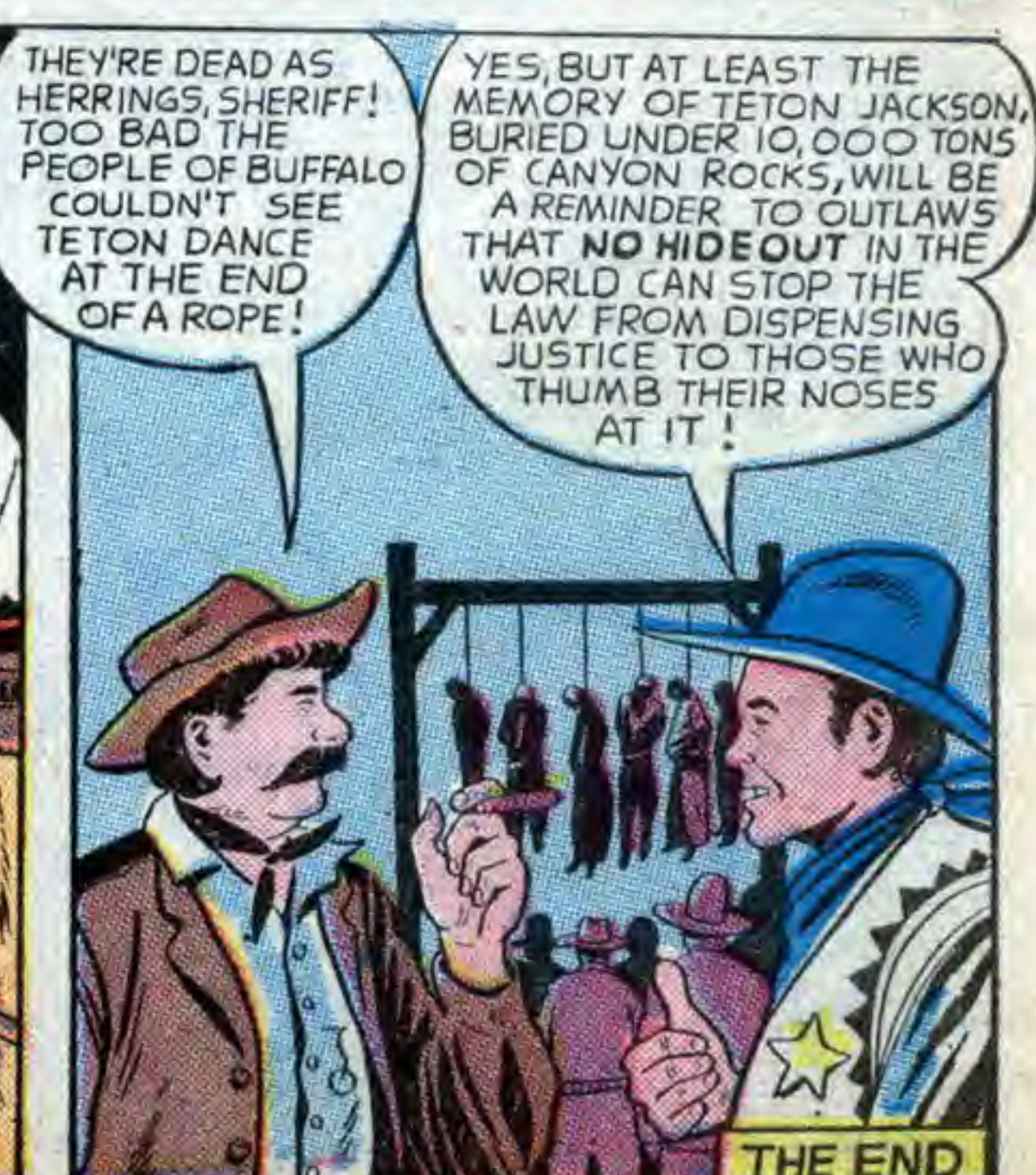
I'LL GET
TO HIM!
JUST
DON'T
MENTION
I'M IN
TOWN!

HE'S DAFT, POOR
FELLER! HE'S GOT
AS MUCH CHANCE
OF GETTIN' TO
TETON JACKSON,
AS TO THE MAN
IN THE MOON!

LESS, IN
FACT-
THE
MAN IN
THE MOON
WOULDN'T
BLAST AWAY
AT HIM
WITH SIX
SHOOTERS!



OBEY THE LAW



ASTONISHING VALUE

GENUINE OLD WEST SET

HAND-PAINTED,
EMBOSSSED
ALL LEATHER BELT
with SILVER-
FINISHED BUCKLE
Price \$2.49

AND MATCHING
SECRET POCKET
COIN HOLDER
ZIPPER BILLFOLD
Price \$1.98

YOURS FOR

ONLY \$4.25

FOR BOTH!

LOOKS MADE TO ORDER - with dozens of expensive features!

**HERE'S
WHAT
YOU
GET!**

THIS BEAUTIFUL ALL LEATHER BELT—EMBOSSSED AND HAND PAINTED WITH SILVER FINISHED BUCKLE, BELT TIP, AND BRIDGE! This belt is "Real Old West." The vivid colorings—red, blue, yellow, green, white, and brown—are hand painted on top of the embossing so that every detail stands out in its natural color as real as a western picture. The metal buckle, belt tip and bridge are embossed and silver finished, and stitched so that they cannot slip. A real work of art from tip to buckle—the finest product of skilled craftsmen with long years of high quality experience in belt making. It's comfortable, long wearing, distinctive, and harmonizes with almost any costume. Made in sizes 26 to 38.

MATCHING COIN HOLDER ZIPPER BILLFOLD WITH SECRET POCKET AND 8 PICTURE AND PASS WINDOWS! The same scene on the belt is repeated in all its beauty and detail on the full length—both sides—of the wallet. Each wallet is saddle finished, gorgeously embossed with colors that won't rub off. The patented coin holder carries \$2.87 in small change—tells at a glance how much you have—makes change accurately in a jiffy. The smooth sliding zipper completely seals the wallet so nothing can fall out, and in addition to 8 picture and pass windows, there's a built in card case and identification card window plus a large currency compartment. And here's the big EXTRA—a patented secret pocket to hide your precious papers and money from prying eyes!

**YOUR FRIENDS WILL TURN
POP-EYED WITH ENVY!**



You'll be the pride of the neighborhood when you wear this outfit. This genuine "Old West" set looks made to order especially for you. It's gorgeously hand painted in 6 different colors that will not rub off. **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SENSATIONAL OFFER NOW!**

SEND NO MONEY—

**JUST MAIL
COUPON**

THE LEATHERCRAFT COMPANY

Dept. 49

386 MAIN AVE.,

CLIFTON, N. J.

Gentlemen: By return mail, rush me the beautiful hand colored all leather "Old West" Belt, Wallet, or Set as checked below. On arrival I will pay the postman amount indicated plus fed. tax, postage and C.O.D. charges. If I am not completely satisfied, I can return within 10 days for full refund.

My Belt Size is _____

☐ Rush me the Complete Set—\$4.25

☐ Send Belt Only—\$2.49

☐ Send Wallet Only—\$1.98

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zone _____

State _____

THE LEATHERCRAFT COMPANY

386 MAIN AVE

CLIFTON, N. J.



The Most Amazing Factory-To-You Introductory Offer Ever Made to the readers of this magazine!

Not One... Not Two... But **ALL 3**
Yes, This Perfectly Matched 3 PIECE POCKET SET

New automatic machinery inventions and manufacturing methods now turn out GORGEOUS fountain pens, ball pens and mechanical pencils with mass production economies unheard of 2 months ago! These tremendous savings passed on factory-to-you. Even when you SEE and USE, you won't believe such beauty, such expert workmanship, such instant and dependable writing service possible at this ridiculous price! Competition says we're raving mad. Decide for yourself at our risk.

WITH YOUR NAME EN-
GRAVED ON ALL THREE
WRITING INSTRUMENTS
IN GOLD LETTERS . . .

\$1.69

Factory To You



1 FOUNTAIN PEN

Fashionable gold plate HOODED POINT writes velvet smooth as bold or fine as you prefer . . . can't leak feed guarantees steady ink flow . . . always moist point writes instantly . . . no clogging . . . lever filler fills pens to top without pumping . . . deep pocket clip safeguards against loss.

2 BALL POINT PEN

Has identical ball point found on \$15 pens . . . NO DIFFERENCE! Rolls new 1948 indelible dark blue ball pen ink dry as you write. Makes 10 carbon copies. Writes under water or high in planes. Can't leak or smudge. Ink supply will last up to 1 year depending on how much you write. Refills at any drug store. Deep pocket clip.

3 MECHANICAL PENCIL

Grips standard lead and just a twist propels, repels, expels. Shaped to match fountain pen and ball pen and feels good in your hand. Unscrews in middle for extra lead reservoir and eraser. Mechanically perfect and should last a lifetime!

10-DAY HOME TRIAL ➔

FULL YEAR'S GUARANTEE ➔

DOUBLE MONEY BACK OFFER ➔

SEND NO MONEY MAIL COUPON ➔

Yes, only the latest manufacturing equipment and inventions could possibly cut production costs to bring a perfectly matched factory-to-you value like this. The matched barrels are practically unbreakable. Unheard of beauty, unheard of service, unheard of price and your name in gold letters on all three writing instruments as our special introductory gift if you mail coupon now! Send no money! On arrival deposit only \$1.69 plus C.O.D. postage on the positive guarantee you can return set for any reason in 10 days and your \$1.69 refunded. Could any offer be more fair? Then mail coupon today and see for yourself a new day is here in writing instrument value!

M.P.K. COMPANY, Dept. 493-K
179 North Michigan, Chicago 1, Illinois

Matched perfectly in polished, gleaming colorful lifetime plastic. Important, we will pay you double your money back if you can equal this offer anywhere in the world! More important, you use 10 days then return for full cash refund if you aren't satisfied for any reason. Most important, all three, fountain pen, ball pen, and pencil, are each individually guaranteed in writing for one year (they should last your lifetime). Full size. Beautiful. Write instantly without clogging. The greatest most amazing value ever offered. Your name in gold letters on all three if you act now. Mail the coupon to see for yourself.

RIGHT RESERVED TO WITHDRAW OFFER AT ANYTIME

SPECIAL OFFER COUPON

M.P.K. Company, Dept. 493-K
179 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 1, Illinois.

Okay, "miracle man", prove it! Send PERFECTLY MATCHED FOUNTAIN PEN, BALL PEN and MECHANICAL PENCIL with my name engraved in gold letters. Enclose year's guarantee certificate. I'll pay \$1.69 plus few cents postage on guarantee I can return set after 10 day trial for cash refund. (Pay in advance and we pay postage)

ENGRAVE THIS NAME ON ALL 3 PIECES:

(Print plainly . . . Avoid mistakes)

Send to (NAME) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____